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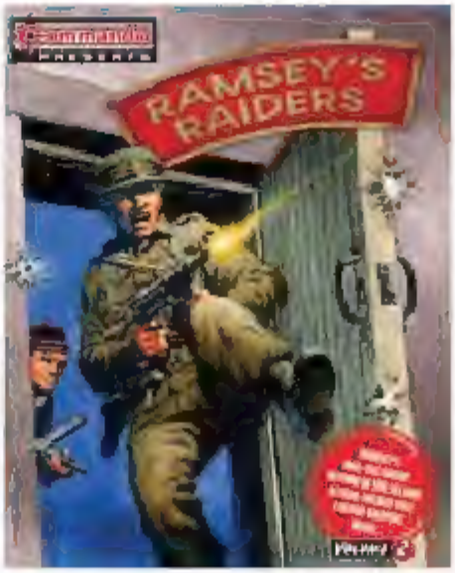

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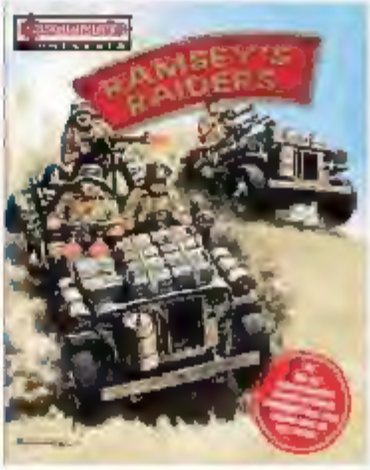

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DEMOLITION SQUAD

AT LAST THE WAR IN BURMA WAS SWINGING IN FAVOUR OF THE ALLIES, BUT IT WAS STILL A MAMMOTH TASK TO KEEP THE TROOPS SUPPLIED IN DENSE JUNGLE WHERE PATHS WERE SCARCE AND ROADS WERE ALMOST NON-EXISTENT.

TO THE MEN FIGHTING BEHIND THE ENEMY LINES, THE DRONE OF THE ENGINES OF THE R.A.F. SUPPLY PLANES WAS THE SWEETEST MUSIC THEY COULD HOPE TO HEAR!

STORY
STAFF

ART
PHILPOTT

COVER
IAN KENNEDY

First Published
1981
No. 1545

AMONG THE COURAGEOUS PILOTS WHO FLEW THE VULNERABLE DAKOTAS ON THEIR CEASELESS ROUND OF SUPPLY MISSIONS WAS FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT ROY RAVEN. LATE ONE AFTERNOON, AS HE AND HIS CREW WERE PREPARING TO TAKE OFF, ROY WAS CALLED BACK FROM HIS PLANE.

THE GROUP CAPTAIN WANTS A WORD, SIR.

OK, CHUM. WITH YOU IN A MOMENT. DON'T START WITHOUT ME, WILL YOU, LADS?

BACK AT THE GROUP CAPTAIN'S OFFICE, ROY WAS INTRODUCED TO AN AUSTRALIAN WING COMMANDER WHO TOLD HIM THAT HIS MISSION WAS TO GO AHEAD AS PLANNED, WITH ONE DIFFERENCE. HE WAS TO CARRY SOME EXTRA CARGO — AN EXPLOSIVES EXPERT AND HIS EQUIPMENT.

ONCE YOU'VE DROPPED THE SUPPLIES, KEEP ON GOING TILL YOU REACH THE HIROMAKITA TUNNEL. THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL DROP THE WING COMMANDER'S MAN.

WE'D USE ONE OF OUR OWN BUSES BUT THE ENEMY MIGHT SPOT AN UNUSUAL PLANE. IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT THE TUNNEL IS DESTROYED.

IT WOULD BE DARK BY THE TIME THEY WERE OVER THE TUNNEL AND SAFER FOR THE DEMOLITIONS EXPERT TO MAKE HIS JUMP.

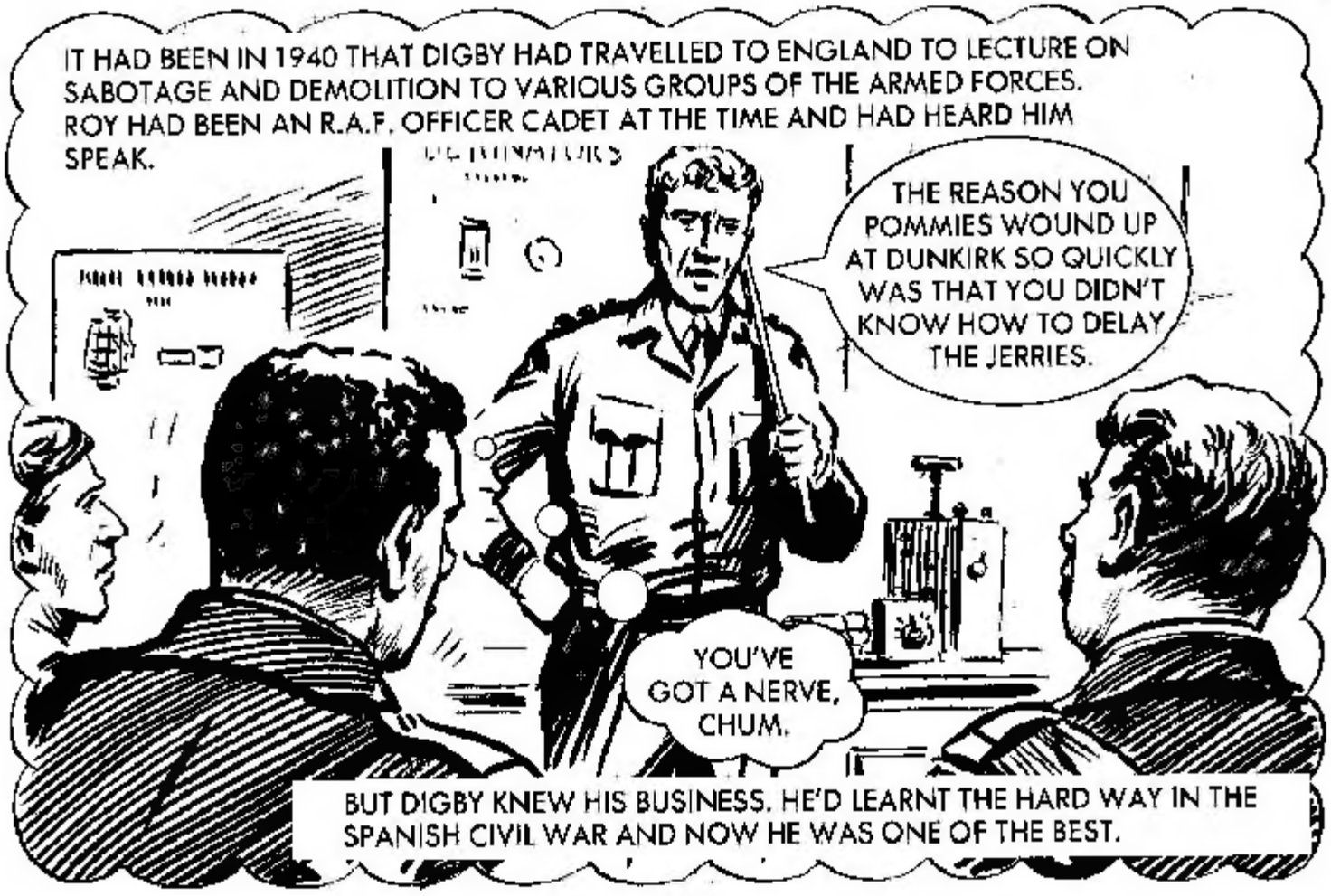
THE TUNNEL, PART OF OLD MINE WORKINGS, CUT STRAIGHT THROUGH A MOUNTAIN RANGE. NO MORE THAN A MUDDY TRACK, IT DID SAVE A CONSIDERABLY LONGER ROUND JOURNEY AND WAS USED BY THE ENEMY TO FERRY SUPPLIES AND TROOPS FORWARD . . . ESPECIALLY SINCE IT HAD PROVED SAFE FROM AIR ATTACK. AND IT WAS THIS FACT WHICH HAD DECIDED THE ALLIES TO SEND IN A SABOTEUR.
WE'VE GOT A BIG PUSH COMING SO WE DON'T WANT THEM USING THE TUNNEL FOR REINFORCEMENTS OR AS A MEANS OF ESCAPE.
YOUR MAN BETTER BE MADE OF STERN STUFF. HE'LL BE UP TO HIS NECK IN ENEMIES DOWN THERE.
THE AUSTRALIAN ASSURED ROY THAT CAPTAIN DIGBY, HIS PASSENGER, WAS FIT FOR THE JOB.

ROY WAS A BIT BORED WITH BEING A SUPPLY PILOT, AND HOPED TO TAKE A GREATER PART IN THE MISSION. BUT . . .
YOU'RE PURELY A TAXI DRIVER, ROY, SO DON'T HANG ABOUT.
OK, SIR.
HIS HOPES WERE QUASHED.

THE PILOT WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THE HURRY TO DESTROY THE TUNNEL.
WE WANT TO REALLY STIR THINGS UP BEFORE WE ATTACK.
IT'LL BE PANIC STATIONS FOR TOJO WHEN WE SLAM THEIR BACK DOOR SHUT.

ROY HAD NO MORE QUESTIONS, SO HE MADE HIS FAREWELLS.
CAPTAIN DIGBY'S WAITING FOR YOU OUT AT YOUR KITE, SO GOOD LUCK, ROY.
THANK YOU, SIR.

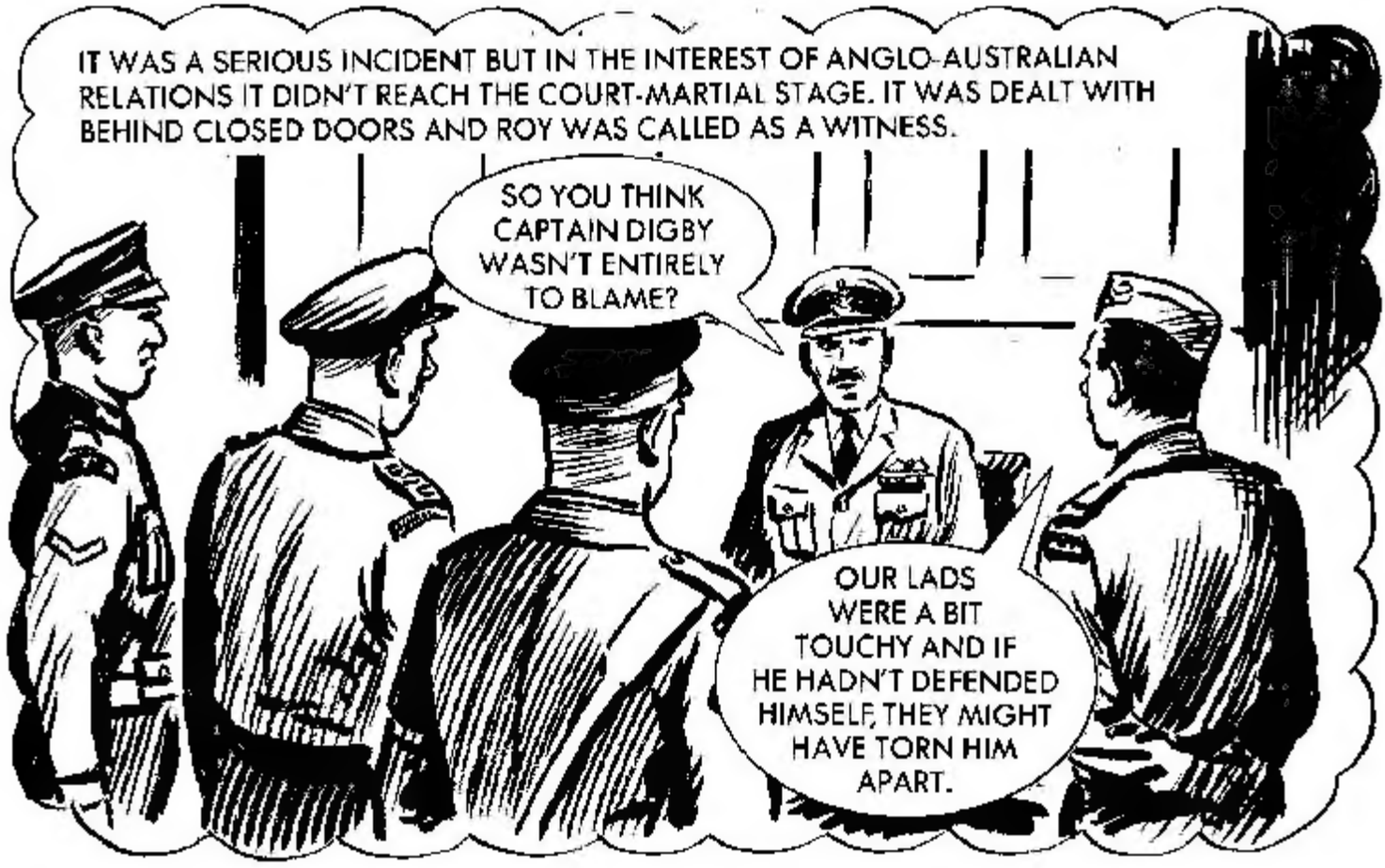
WHEN ROY REACHED THE PLANE, CAPTAIN DIGBY WAS WAITING ON BOARD FOR HIM. TO ROY'S SURPRISE HE REALISED HE'D MET THE AUSTRALIAN BEFORE.
REMEMBER ME, RAVEN?
GAVIN DIGBY? THE SURNAME RANG A BELL WHEN GROUP MENTIONED IT, BUT I DIDN'T CONNECT IT WITH YOU!
MEMORIES SPRANG INTO ROY'S MIND OF THE EARLY YEARS OF THE WAR BACK IN BRITAIN.

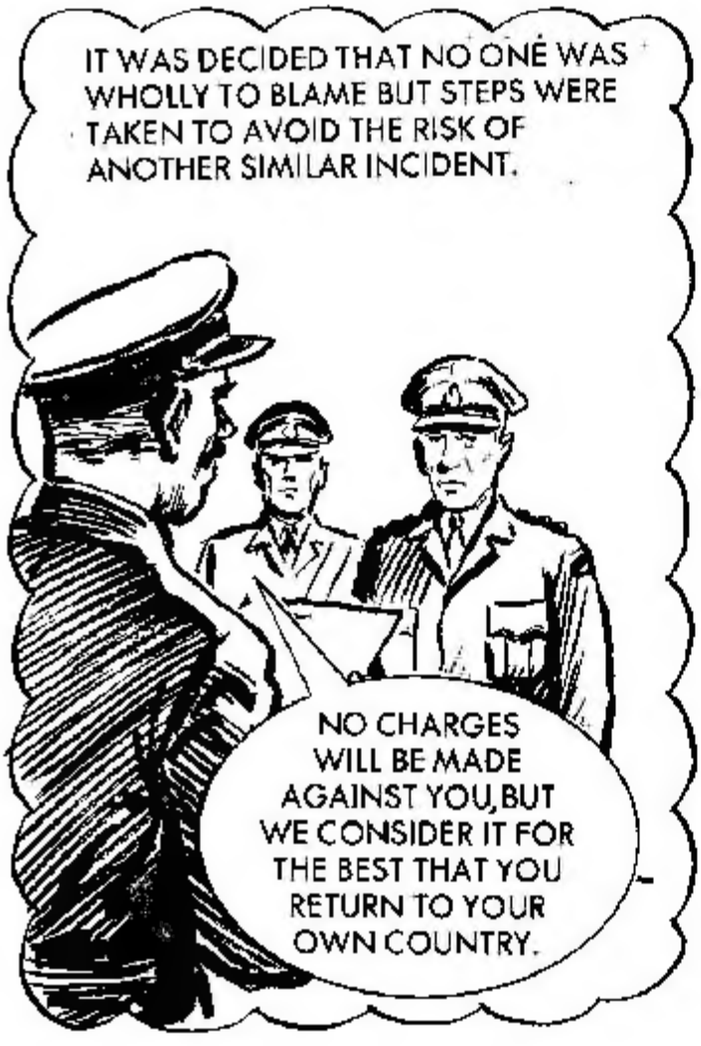

IT HAD BEEN IN 1940 THAT DIGBY HAD TRAVELLED TO ENGLAND TO LECTURE ON SABOTAGE AND DEMOLITION TO VARIOUS GROUPS OF THE ARMED FORCES. ROY HAD BEEN AN R.A.F. OFFICER CADET AT THE TIME AND HAD HEARD HIM SPEAK.
THE REASON YOU POMMIES WOUND UP AT DUNKIRK SO QUICKLY WAS THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DELAY THE JERRIES.
YOU'VE GOT A NERVE, CHUM.
BUT DIGBY KNEW HIS BUSINESS. HE'D LEARNT THE HARD WAY IN THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR AND NOW HE WAS ONE OF THE BEST.

HOWEVER, DESPITE PLENTY OF WARNING SIGNS, HE PERSISTED IN TELLING BRITISH SOLDIERS THEY HAD GONE WRONG IN FRANCE. BUT HE WENT TOO FAR THE DAY HE BEGAN PREACHING IN A BAR TO SOME SOLDIERS FRESH FROM DUNKIRK.
BELT UP, YOU AUSSIE LOUDMOUTH. YOUR LOT HAVE BEEN FEW AND FAR BETWEEN IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS.
AND IT'S SHOWED. THE JERRIES HARDLY BROKE SWEAT CHASING YOU BACK OVER THE CHANNEL.
DIGBY'S REMARK SPARKED OFF A BRAWL AS THE TOUCHY BRITISH SOLDIERS ERUPTED INTO ACTION TO REPAIR THEIR INJURED PRIDE.

ROY, WHO WAS SITTING IN THE BAR, TRIED VAINLY TO SEPARATE THE WARRING PARTIES.
STEADY ON, CHAPS. WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE, REMEMBER.
BUT GOOD INTENTIONS COUNTED FOR NOTHING AND HE WAS SOON OVERWHELMED IN THE SUBSEQUENT MELEE.

THE LANDLORD LOOKED ON IN HORROR AS DIGBY AND HIS ASSAILANTS TRANSFORMED THE BAR FITMENTS INTO FIREWOOD.
LOOK OUT, LADS! HERE COMES TROUBLE.
LUCKILY THE M.P.s WERE SOON ON THE SCENE AND QUELLED WHAT WAS QUICKLY TURNING INTO A RIOT.


IT WAS A SERIOUS INCIDENT BUT IN THE INTEREST OF ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS IT DIDN'T REACH THE COURT-MARTIAL STAGE. IT WAS DEALT WITH BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND ROY WAS CALLED AS A WITNESS.
SO YOU THINK CAPTAIN DIGBY WASN'T ENTIRELY TO BLAME?
OUR LADS WERE A BIT TOUCHY AND IF HE HADN'T DEFENDED HIMSELF, THEY MIGHT HAVE TORN HIM APART.


IT WAS DECIDED THAT NO ONE WAS WHOLLY TO BLAME BUT STEPS WERE TAKEN TO AVOID THE RISK OF ANOTHER SIMILAR INCIDENT.
NO CHARGES WILL BE MADE AGAINST YOU, BUT WE CONSIDER IT FOR THE BEST THAT YOU RETURN TO YOUR OWN COUNTRY.

AND BY THE LOOK ON HIS FACE THE AUSTRALIAN WAS GLAD TO BE GOING.
IT'S A PITY THINGS TURNED OUT LIKE THIS.
IT'S A PITY FOR BRITAIN. YOU CAN GET YOURSELVES OUT OF TROUBLE FROM NOW ON.

A LONG TIME HAD PASSED SINCE THEY'D LAST MET BUT DIGBY STILL HAD A DEEP HATRED FOR EVERYTHING BRITISH.

DON'T THINK YOU'RE DOING ME ANY FAVOURS. I'M NOT FLYING BRITISH BY CHOICE. I'M JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS.

I'M SORRY THAT'S STILL HOW YOU FEEL. WE'LL TRY TO MAKE YOUR TRIP AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE.

ROY KNEW DIGBY'S VIEWS WERE UNSHAKABLE SO, WASTING NO TIME ON ARGUMENT, HE GOT THE DAKOTA ON ITS WAY FOR THE MORE IMPORTANT BUSINESS IN HAND.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT, SIR?

JUST PLENTY OF ROOM, DO YOU GET MY DRIFT, POMMY?

BUT EVEN OFFERS OF HELP AND ATTEMPTS AT FRIENDLINESS WERE GIVEN SHORT SHRIFT BY THE PRICKLY AUSTRALIAN.

ROY KNEW DIGBY WAS RUBBING THE CREW THE WRONG WAY SO HE TOLD HIS CO-PILOT, SERGEANT DANNY SPENCER, TO PASS THE WORD THAT EVERYONE WAS TO STAY CALM.
TREAT HIM JUST LIKE ANOTHER CRATE ON A ONE-WAY SUPPLY TRIP, DANNY.
YOU'RE RIGHT, SKIPPER. WE WON'T HAVE TO SUFFER HIM FOR MUCH LONGER.

THE CREW DID THEIR BEST BUT THEIR PASSENGER MANAGED TO CRACK THEIR COMPOSURE WITH HIS PERSISTENT HOSTILE ANTI-BRITISH COMMENTS, AND IT WAS DANNY WHO FIRST COMPLAINED TO ROY.
HE'S TREATING THE PLACE LIKE A HOTEL AND THE BOYS LIKE THE HIRED HELP.
HE'S PROBABLY TOO WOUND-UP TO KNOW WHAT HE'S SAYING. AFTER ALL, HE'S GOT A TOUGH TIME AHEAD OF HIM.

HOWEVER, THEIR TIME WAS SOON TAKEN UP WITH OTHER THINGS. AFTER MAKING THE USUAL SUPPLY DROP THEY HEADED ONWARD AS DARKNESS FELL.
AS THEY NEARED THE HIROMAKITA TUNNEL THE ENEMY HEARD THEM COMING AND SATURATED THE AIR SPACE WITH FLAK.

THINGS BECAME DECIDEDLY UNPLEASANT AS THE PLANE WAS BUFFETED BY THE AERIAL EXPLOSIONS
TRUST THE ENEMY TO HOLD A FIREWORKS DISPLAY TONIGHT.
AND IT'S ALL FOR OUR BENEFIT.

ENEMY GUNNERS WERE WIDE AWAKE AND BANG ON TARGET AND WERE SOON REWARDED WITH A HIT ON ONE OF THE DAKOTA'S ENGINES.
BLAST! THEY'VE GOT US. WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?

THE CREW AND DIGBY WERE ALL IN ONE PIECE BUT THE PLANE ITSELF HADN'T BEEN QUITE SO LUCKY DANNY REPORTED TENSELY —
WE'VE LOST AN ENGINE, SKIPPER, AND THERE'S A NASTY-LOOKING FIRE GETTING A GRIP ON THE WING.

WITH ONE ENGINE GONE AND FLAMES CREEPING STEADILY TOWARDS THE MAIN FUSELAGE, ROY WAS FACED WITH A TOUGH DECISION.
IF WE CANCEL THE MISSION NOW, WE MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO LIMP BACK TO BASE.
AND IF WE GO ON WE MIGHT MAKE IT TO DIGBY'S DROP ZONE, BUT THERE'LL BE NO GOING BACK.

D GBY OVERHEARD THE DEBATE AND, NOT WANTING TO BE LEFT OUT, MOVED FORWARD INTO THE COCKPIT.
THIS OPERATION IS TOP PRIORITY TS SUCCESS FAR OUTWEIGHS THE LOSS OF ONE DAKOTA
PIPE DOWN D GBY. WHILE WE'RE STILL IN THE AIR I M IN CHARGE, AND IT'S MY DECISION

BUT THE ARROGANT AUSSIE WAS THE LAST PERSON WHO WOULD BOW TO AUTHOR TY
OF COURSE, F ALL YOU RE WORRIED ABOUT S SAVING YOUR OWN SKIN .
IF YOU DON'T GET OUT OF MY SIGHT, DIGBY, I PERSONALLY THROW YOU OUT W THOUT A PARACHUTE
WITH A SCOWL, DIGBY TURNED AWAY

ALTHOUGH ROY DISLIKED THE BRASH AUSTRALIAN HE KNEW DIGBY WAS RIGHT IT WAS VITAL THAT THE TUNNEL BE DESTROYED.
I'VE DECIDED TO GO ON, DANNY, ALTHOUGH AT THE RATE WE'RE LOSING ALTITUDE, WE'LL BE ON THE DECK BEFORE WE REACH THE TARGET.
WITH FLAMES SPLUTTERING FROM ITS WING, THE DAKOTA DRONED ON THROUGH THE NIGHT. THE HILLY JUNGLE TERRAIN WHICH HAD SEEMED LIKE A RUMPLED TABLECLOTH MOMENTS BEFORE, WAS LOOMING NEARER BY THE MINUTE.
TELL THE REST OF THE LADS TO BAIL OUT, DANNY. IF WE WAIT ANY LONGER THE PARACHUTES WILL BE USELESS. AND MAKE SURE DIGBY GOES TOO
OK, SKIPPER SEE YOU IN THE JUNGLE.

ROY WRESTLED THE PLANE ON A STRAIGHT COURSE AS THE CREW JUMPED CLEAR, THEIR CHUTES FALLING LIKE MUSHROOMS THROUGH THE EVENING AIR.
THAT WING LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO DISINTEGRATE.
AS ROY FOUGHT A LOSING BATTLE WITH THE AILING AIRCRAFT, THE CREW DRIFTED BELOW, WAITING ANXIOUSLY FOR HIM TO JUMP.
COME ON, ROY. JUMP! IT'S NOW OR NEVER.

EVEN AS DANNY GAVE VOICE TO HIS WORRIED THOUGHTS ROY WAS LEAVING THE COCKP T AND HURRYING TOWARDS THE ESCAPE HATCH, BUT HE WAS IN FOR A SURPRISE —DIGBY WAS STILL ON BOARD.

STREWTH! ARE YOU MAD! IF YOU DON'T JUMP NOW YOU NEVER WILL

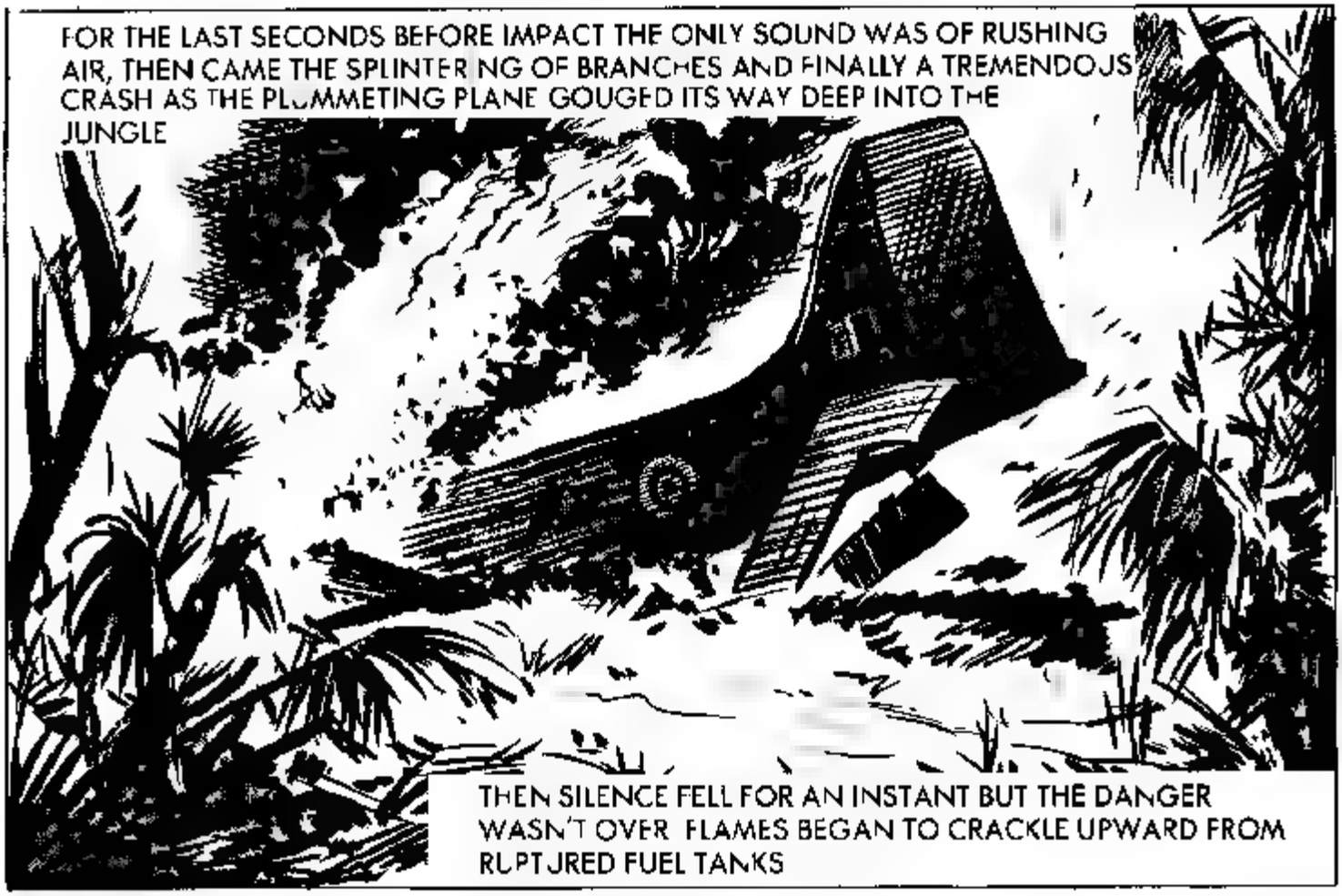
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT TRY A BELLY LAND NG. THAT TUNNEL'S STILL THERE AND WITHOUT THIS GEAR CAN'T DO MUCH ABOUT IT

IMPRESSED W TH THE AUSTRALIAN'S DETERM NAT ON, ROY KNEW HE COULDN'T DO LESS THAN MATCH T

OK, DIGBY I'LL TRY IT, BUT YOU'D BETTER SAY ALL THE PRAYERS YOU KNOW

IN A MAD RUSH, ROY LURCHED BACK TO THE CONTROLS AND FOUGHT TO RAISE THE NOSE OF THE PLANE.

BEH ND HIM, DIGBY HUNG ON GRIMLY TO A BULKHEAD AS THE GROUND RUSHED UP TO MEET THEM.


FOR THE LAST SECONDS BEFORE IMPACT THE ONLY SOUND WAS OF RUSHING AIR, THEN CAME THE SPLINTERING OF BRANCHES AND FINALLY A TREMENDOUS CRASH AS THE PLUMMETING PLANE GOUGED ITS WAY DEEP INTO THE JUNGLE
THEN SILENCE FELL FOR AN INSTANT BUT THE DANGER WASN'T OVER FLAMES BEGAN TO CRACKLE UPWARD FROM RUPTURED FUEL TANKS

ROY HAD BEEN STUNNED IN THE CRASH BUT LUCKILY DIGBY WAS CONSCIOUS AND ABLE TO DRAG HIM CLEAR OF THE WRECKAGE
IF YOU'D WEIGHED ANY MORE POMMY, IT WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TOJO TO BRING US DOWN

WHEN ROY REGA NED HIS SENSES HE WAS LYING FORTY YARDS AWAY FROM THE BURNING FUSELAGE AND TO H S HORROR HE SAW THAT DIGBY WAS DASHING BACK TOWARDS THE PLANE.
COME BACK YOJ FOOL THE WHOLE LOT S ABOUT TO GO UP!

N AN EFFORT TO SAVE THE FOOLHARDY AUSTRALIAN, ROY STAGGERED TOWARDS THE PLANE. REACHING DIGBY HE MANAGED TO GRAB HIM
IF YOU GO N AGAIN, YOU WON'T COME OUT
GET YOUR PAWS OFF ME, YOU DINGO THERE'S MORE OF MY GEAR IN THERE
HE HAD ALREADY RESCUED SOME OF HIS EQUIPMENT FROM THE INFERNO BUT HE WAS ABOUT TO MAKE A SECOND FORAY INTO THE FLAMES

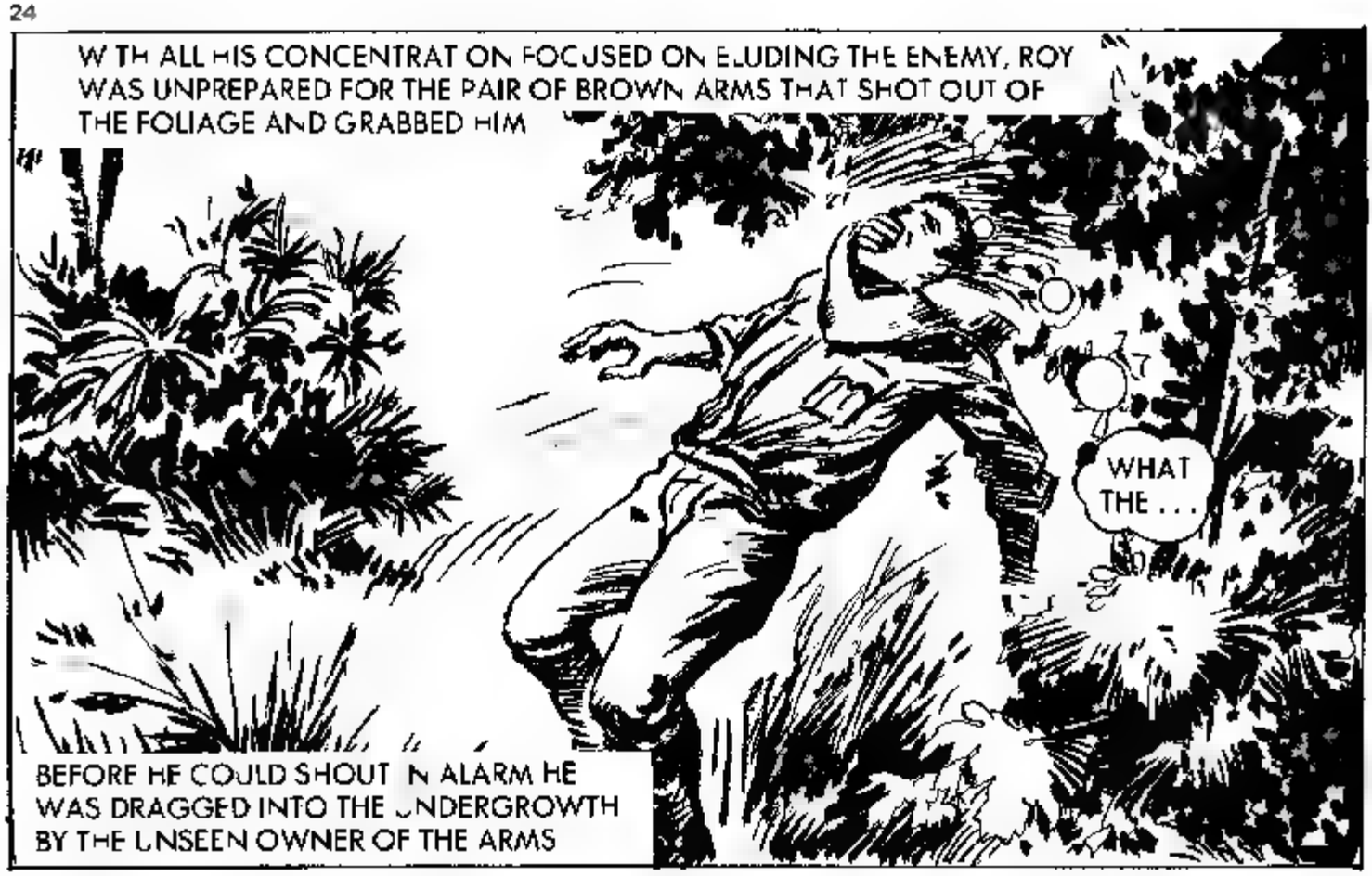
ROY ALONE COULDN'T HOLD HIM BACK BUT AS DIGBY PULLED AWAY FROM HIM, HE TRIPPED AND SPRAINED HIS ANKLE.
OUCH!
STILL DAZED AND EXHAUSTED AFTER HIS TUSSLE WITH DIGBY, ROY TOO FELL TO THE GROUND.
AND IT WAS JUST AS WELL THAT THEY WERE LYING FLAT FOR AT THAT MOMENT A SHEET OF FLAME RIPPED ALONG THE PLANE.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH WHAT YOU'VE GOT, DIGBY.

THE TWO MEN QUICKLY GATHERED UP THE EQU PMENT AND HURRIED AWAY BEFORE THEY WERE CAUGHT IN THE GREATER EXPLOSION WHICH THEY KNEW WAS IMMINENT
C'MON, DIGBY. YOU LEFT ENOUGH DYNAMITE BEHIND TO BLOW MY DAKOTA BACK IN THE AIR AGA N.
HOLD ON, RAVEN. MY ANKLE S SLOWING ME DOWN.
THEY BARELY HAD TIME TO DIVE BEH ND A LARGE ROCK BEFORE THE PLANE ERUPTED WITH AN EAR-SHATTERING EXPLOSION WHICH SCATTERED RED-HOT DEBRIS OVERHEAD
YOU WERE LUCKY TO GET THAT TW STED ANKLE. OTHERWISE YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT LOT
DIGBY RELUCTANTLY GRUNTED IN AGREEMENT.

BUT THAT WAS AS FAR AS THE AUSTRALIAN WOULD GO IN HIS GRATITUDE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT HE HAD ROY TO THANK FOR HIS LIFE
STOP LOLLING AROUND RAVEN. I'VE SALVAGED HALF MY GEAR AND THE TUNNEL'S STILL THERE, SO THE JOB IS STILL ON.
THAT TUNNEL IS A GOOD TEN MILES AWAY YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT ON THAT ANKLE.
ROY INSISTED THAT THEY WAITED NEAR THE SMOULDERING PLANE FOR THE REST OF THE NIGHT IN CASE ANY OF THE OTHER CREWMEN REACHED THE CRASH SIGHT. IT WOULD ALSO TAKE THE STRAIN OFF DIGBY'S ANKLE FOR THE TIME BEING

THE AUSTRALIAN GRUDGINGLY AGREED BUT ONLY BECAUSE HE REALISED THAT THE REST OF THE CREW IF THEY TURNED UP, COULD HELP HIM REACH THE TUNNEL.
I'M GOING DOWN TO THE WRECKAGE TO SEE WHAT I CAN SALVAGE, AND IF ANY OF THE LADS SHOW UP, I'LL BE WAITING
OK, RAVEN, BUT WITH OR WITHOUT THEM, WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE TRACKS AT DAWN.

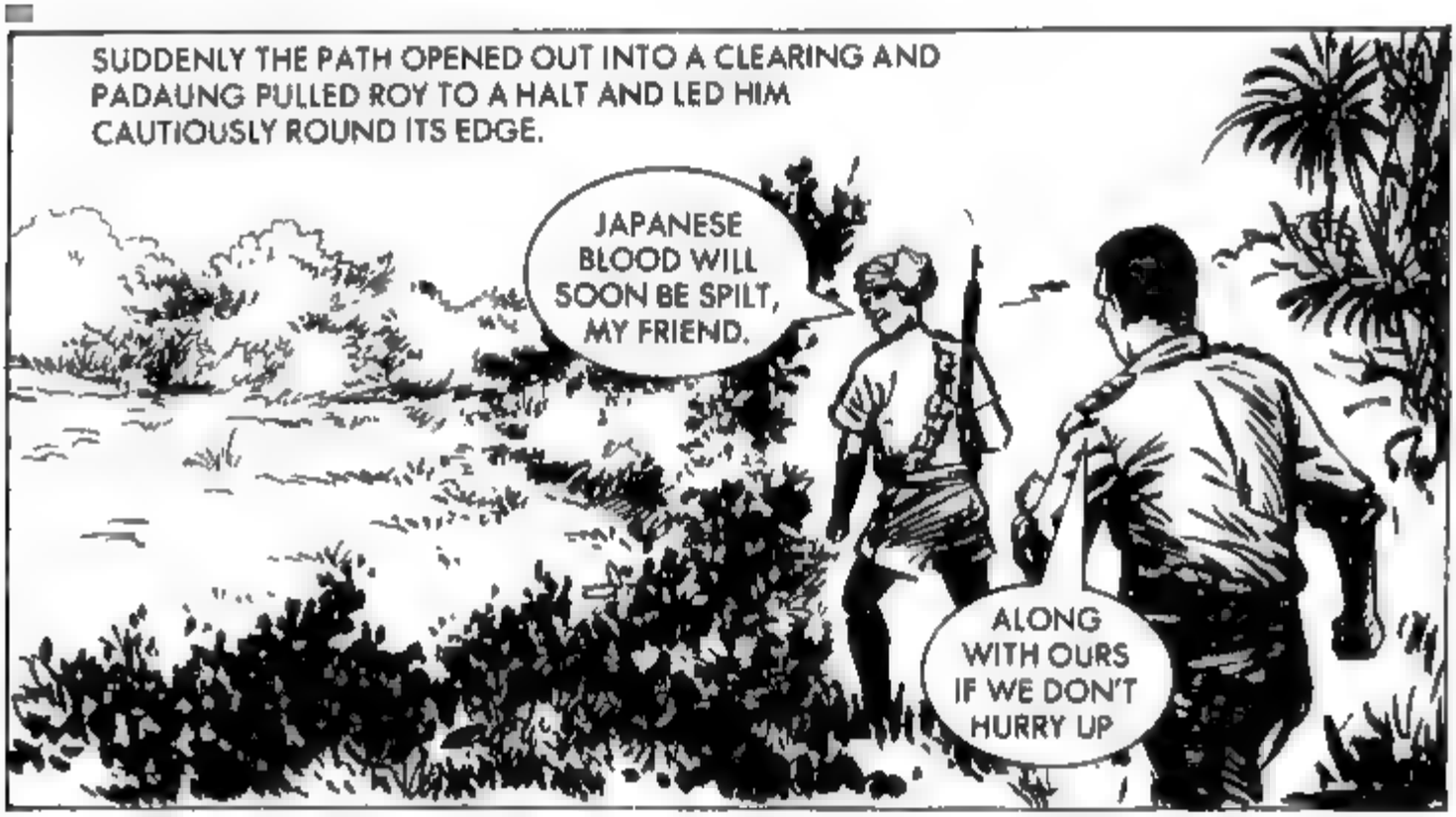
DOWN AT THE GLOWING REMNANTS OF THE DAKOTA, ROY GOT COMPANY SOONER THAN HE'D EXPECTED, BUT IT WASN'T FRIENDLY
CRIPES! IT LOOKS LIKE THEY MUST HAVE SEEN US CRASH AND NOW THEY'RE HERE TO CHECK ON THE WRECKAGE.
NOT WANTING TO LEAD THEM TO THE CRIPPLED AUSTRALIAN HE SPRINTED OFF INTO THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION AND WITH BULLETS BUZZING ROUND HIS EARS PLUNGED INTO THE JUNGLE.
I HOPE DIGBY APPRECIATES THIS IF THEY FOLLOWED ME THEY SHOULDN'T SUSPECT THAT THERE'S ANYONE ELSE AROUND
THE BRITISH PILOT HURRIED ON THROUGH THE UNDERGROWTH WITH THE SHOUTS OF THE PURSUING JAPANESE RINGING IN HIS EARS.


WITH ALL HIS CONCENTRATION FOCUSED ON ELUDING THE ENEMY, ROY WAS UNPREPARED FOR THE PAIR OF BROWN ARMS THAT SHOT OUT OF THE FOLIAGE AND GRABBED HIM
WHAT THE . . .
BEFORE HE COULD SHOUT IN ALARM HE WAS DRAGGED INTO THE UNDERGROWTH BY THE UNSEEN OWNER OF THE ARMS

WHEN ROY HAD REGAINED HIS COMPOSURE HE SAW TO HIS ASTONISHMENT THAT HIS CAPTOR WAS A TOUGH-LOOKING BURMESE NATIVE
DO WHAT PADAUNG SAYS, TOMMY STAY QUIET UNTIL THE MEN OF NIPPON HAVE PASSED

HE NODDED HIS ASSENT AND WAITED SILENTLY AS THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS HURRIED BY.
SEARCH THE AREA. THE ENGLISH DOG CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR

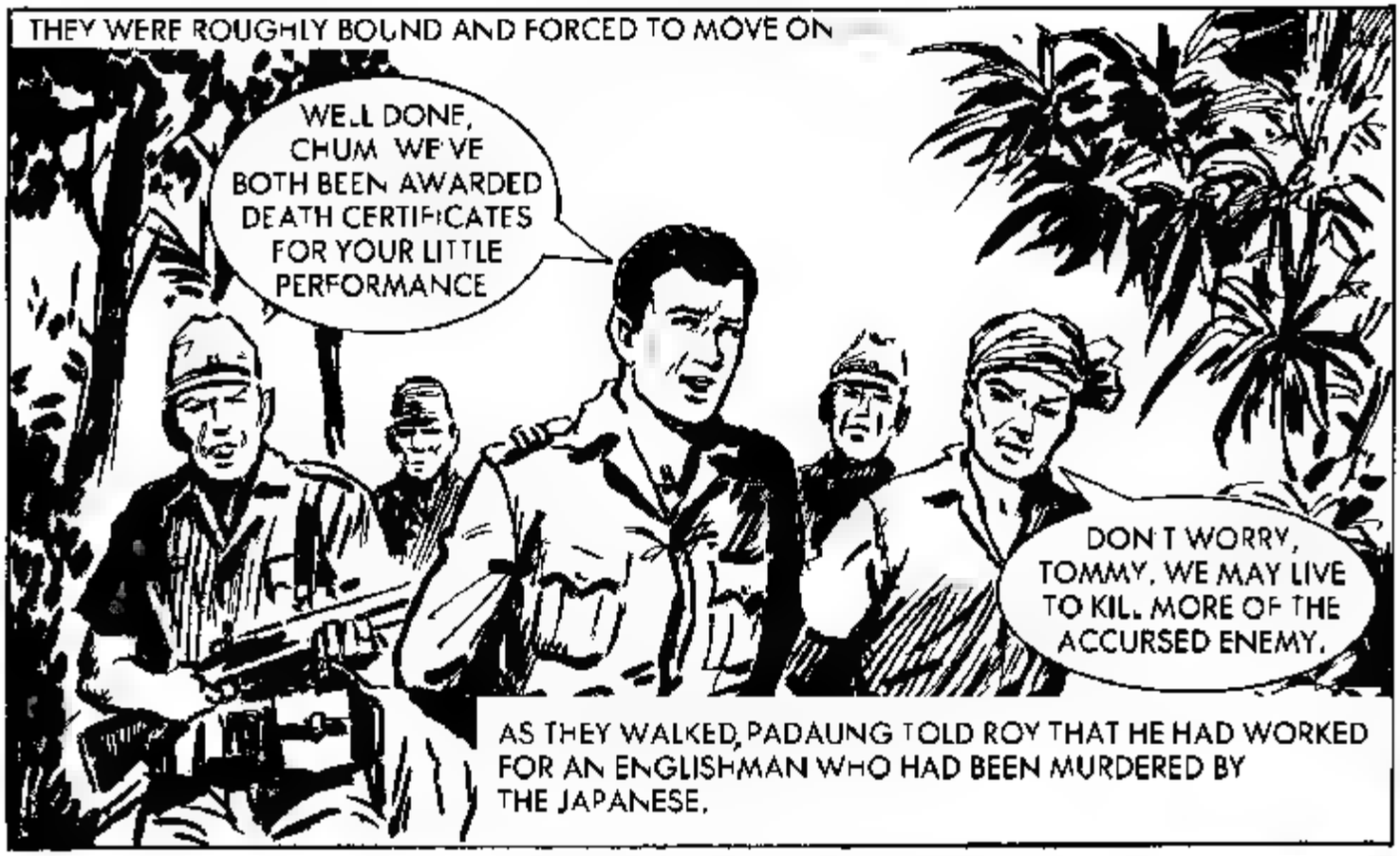
BUT PADAUNG HAD NO INTENTION OF LETTING THE JAPANESE GET AWAY WITHOUT A FIGHT
YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY WE'RE OVER HERE
I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, MATE
UNSURE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON, ROY COULD DO LITTLE MORE THAN PLACE HIS TRUST IN PADAUNG.
WITH THE JAPANESE IN EVEN HOTTER PURSUIT, PADAUNG, WITH ROY HARD AT HIS HEELS, LED A WEAVING AND SEEMINGLY-AIMLESS CHASE THROUGH THE JUNGLE
THAT'S IT, INVADERS FOLLOW ME SOON YOU WILL REGRET EVERY STEP


SUDDENLY THE PATH OPENED OUT INTO A CLEARING AND PADAUNG PULLED ROY TO A HALT AND LED HIM CAUTIOUSLY ROUND ITS EDGE.
JAPANESE BLOOD WILL SOON BE SPILT, MY FRIEND.
ALONG WITH OURS IF WE DON'T HURRY UP

WHEN THE JAPANESE REACHED THE GLADE, THEIR QUARRY WAS STILL IN VIEW —
BY SHINTO! WE HAVE THEM NOW . . .
WITH BLOOD-CURDLING YELLS THEY CHARGED ACROSS THE CLEARING.

BUT PADAUNG HAD LURED THEM INTO A TRAP. A CONCEALED PIT FULL OF SHARPENED STAKES WAS THEIR JOURNEY'S END.
AIEE!
WE HAVE BEEN TRICKED!

THE FUGITIVES' SUCCESS WAS SHORT-LIVED, THOUGH. AS THEY TURNED TO FLEE, THEIR WAY WAS BLOCKED BY YET ANOTHER PATROL AND THERE WAS COLD ANGER IN THE EYES OF THIS SQUAD.
WE COULD KILL YOU HERE, DOGS. BUT THAT WOULD BE TOO QUICK. OUR COLONEL WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH THE SLOW DEATH YOU DESERVE


THEY WERE ROUGHLY BOUND AND FORCED TO MOVE ON
WELL DONE, CHUM WE'VE BOTH BEEN AWARDED DEATH CERTIFICATES FOR YOUR LITTLE PERFORMANCE
DON'T WORRY, TOMMY. WE MAY LIVE TO KILL MORE OF THE ACCURSED ENEMY.
AS THEY WALKED, PADAUNG TOLD ROY THAT HE HAD WORKED FOR AN ENGLISHMAN WHO HAD BEEN MURDERED BY THE JAPANESE.

AFTER A GRUELLING JUNGLE MARCH THE TWO CAPTIVES REACHED THE CAMP AND WERE TAKEN STRAIGHT TO THE COMMANDING OFFICER.
SO YOU CHOOSE TRICKERY TO DEFEAT THE WARRIORS OF NIPPON? YOU SHALL PAY WITH YOUR LIVES FOR YOUR METHODS
THEY WERE TO BE DEALT WITH THE NEXT DAY AFTER THE COLONEL HAD DECIDED ON SUITABLE TORTURES

WITH A CURT COMMAND FROM THE COLONEL,THE PRISONERS WERE BUNDLED OFF TO WAIT AND WONDER ON THEIR FATE
YOU'D BETTER PRAY TO YOUR GODS FOR A MIRACLE, PADAUNG
DON'T WORRY I AM A CHILD OF THE JUNGLE AND IT WILL SAVE US FROM THESE INTRUDERS
ALTHOUGH BY DAWN BOTH MEN WERE BEGINNING TO LOSE FAITH IN THE GODS AND THE JUNGLE

BUT A MIRACLE WAS CLOSER AT HAND THAN EITHER MAN IMAGINED AN EXPLODING GRENADE WAS THEIR FIRST WARNING OF IT
AIEEE!
A SURPRISE ATTACK! THE DREADED CHINDITS!

THESE ALLIED COLUMNS, NAMED AFTER THE MYTHICAL CREATURES WHICH GUARDED BURMESE TEMPLES, OPERATED INDEPENDENTLY BEHIND ENEMY LINES AND WERE PERSISTENT THORNS IN THE FLESH OF THE JAPANESE ARMY

THAT'S THE WAY, LADS, KEEP 'EM BUSY!

TO ROY AND PADAUNG THE SOUND OF EXPLODING GRENADES AND THE CHATTER OF MACHINE-GUN FIRE WAS MUSIC TO THE EAR.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE ARRIVAL OF SOME UNEXPECTED BREAKFAST GUESTS.

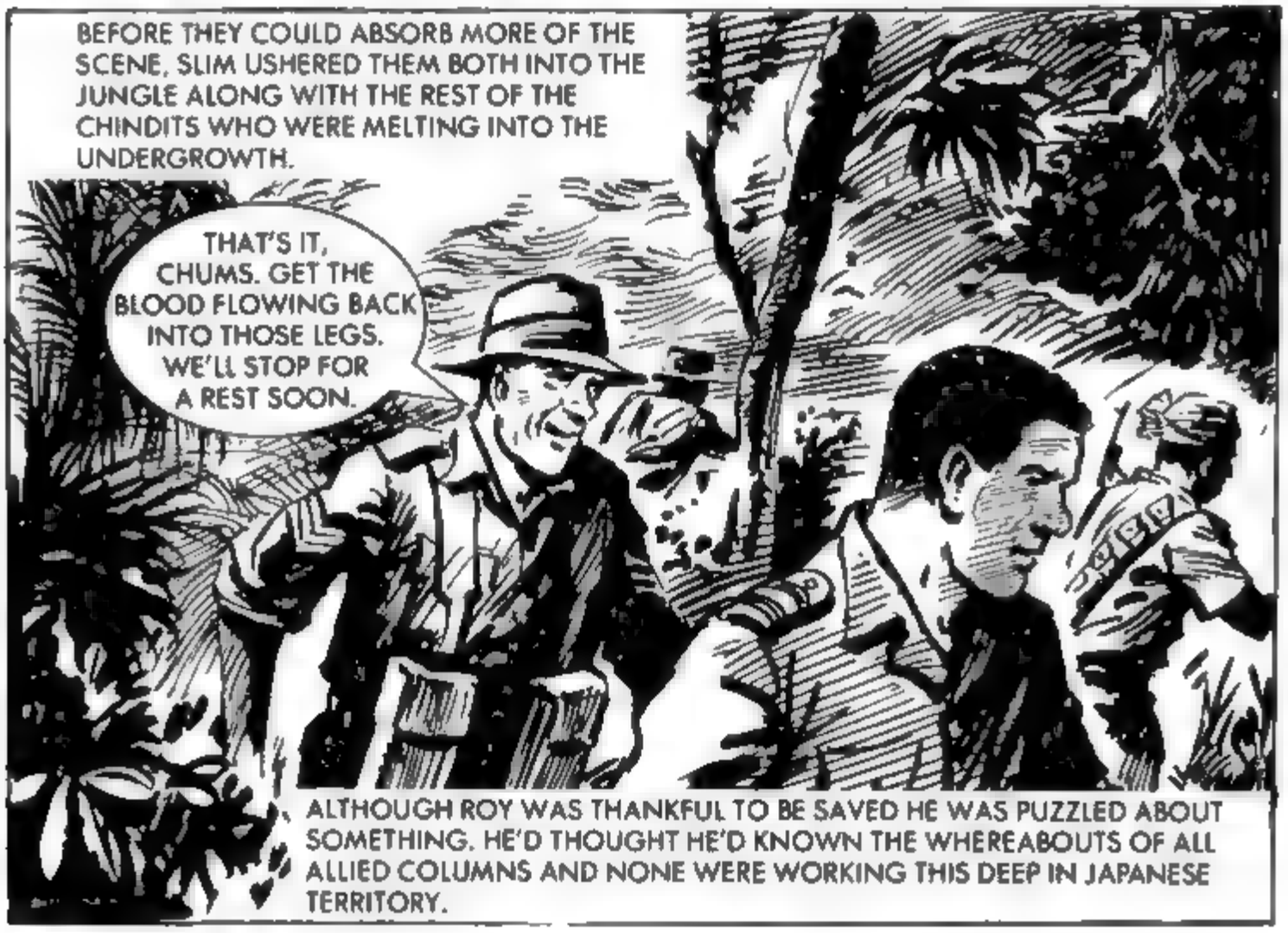
IT'S AS I SAID. THE JUNGLE HAS GUIDED FRIENDS TO OUR AID.

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE FIRING DIED DOWN AND A CHINDIT BURST INTO THE TENT.

CARE TO JOIN US, CHUMS. OR ARE YOU TOO TIED UP?

NOT AT ALL, PAL. WE'VE HAD OUR FILL OF THE HOSPITALITY.

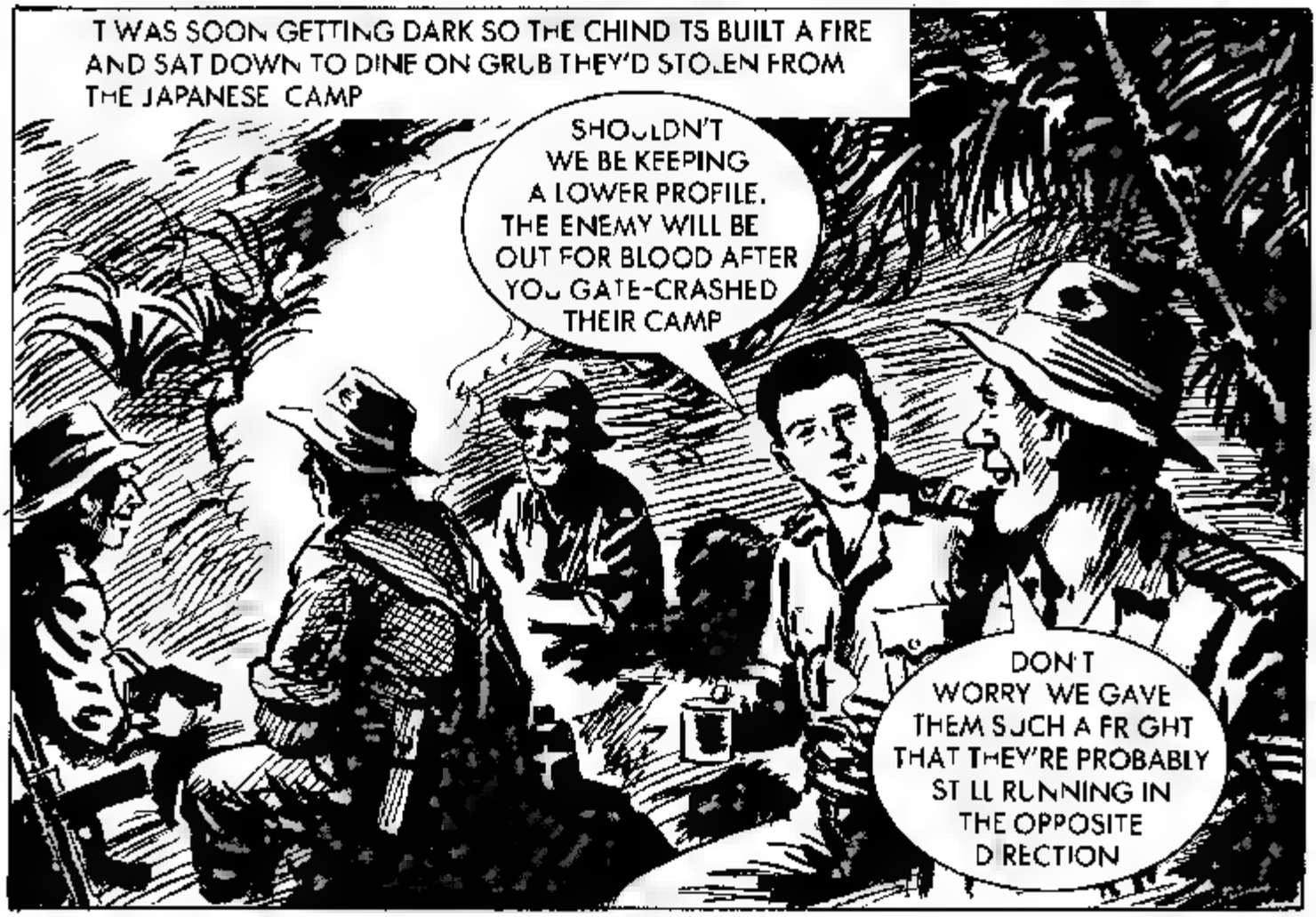
THE SOLDIER, WHO QUICKLY INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS SERGEANT " SLIM " BROGAN, UNTIED THEM AND LED THEM FROM THE TENT WHERE A CHAOTIC SIGHT AWAITED THEM.
DON'T JUST STAND GAPING. WE'RE ONLY PASSING THROUGH SO LET'S MOVE
BLIMEY! YOU'VE CERTAINLY REARRANGED THE FURNITURE.
THE WHIRLWIND ATTACK HAD TRANSFORMED THE ORDERLY JAPANESE CAMP INTO A SMOULDERING RUIN.


BEFORE THEY COULD ABSORB MORE OF THE SCENE, SLIM USHERED THEM BOTH INTO THE JUNGLE ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE CHINDITS WHO WERE MELTING INTO THE UNDERGROWTH.
THAT'S IT, CHUMS. GET THE BLOOD FLOWING BACK INTO THOSE LEGS. WE'LL STOP FOR A REST SOON.
ALTHOUGH ROY WAS THANKFUL TO BE SAVED HE WAS PUZZLED ABOUT SOMETHING. HE'D THOUGHT HE'D KNOWN THE WHEREABOUTS OF ALL ALLIED COLUMNS AND NONE WERE WORKING THIS DEEP IN JAPANESE TERRITORY.

SLIM ANSWERED ROY'S QUESTIONS WITHOUT RELUCTANCE
WE'RE PART OF A LARGER COLUMN WHICH WAS AMBUSHED FOUR DAYS AGO WE GOT SEPARATED FROM THE REST DURING THE FIGHT.
THE BEDRAGGLED SOLDIERS HAD BEEN ON THE MOVE EVER SINCE, TRYING DESPERATELY TO LINK UP WITH ANOTHER UNIT.

THE SERGEANT WAS JUST AS CURIOUS ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE BRITISH PILOT RECOGNISING THAT THE CHINDITS COULD BE A HELP TO DIGBY, ROY TOLD HIM THE WHOLE STORY.
.. SO IT'S ESSENTIAL WE HIT THAT TUNNEL SOON.
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A GANG OF RECRUITS.

THE NEW ALLIES THROWN TOGETHER BY A FATEFUL TWIST OF WAR SOON REACHED A PLACE TO REST A CLIFF OF CAVE-RIDDEN CRAGS WHICH REARED OUT OF THE JUNGLE
BUT I'VE GOT TO GET TO DIGBY
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM I'LL SEND PADALING AND TWO OF MY MEN TO THE PLANE AND THEY'LL BRING HIM BACK.


IT WAS SOON GETTING DARK SO THE CHINDITS BUILT A FIRE AND SAT DOWN TO DINE ON GRUB THEY'D STOLEN FROM THE JAPANESE CAMP
SHOULDN'T WE BE KEEPING A LOWER PROFILE. THE ENEMY WILL BE OUT FOR BLOOD AFTER YOU GATE-CRASHED THEIR CAMP
DON'T WORRY WE GAVE THEM SUCH A FRIGHT THAT THEY'RE PROBABLY STILL RUNNING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION

ROY SAID NOTHING MORE BUT HE COULD NOT HELP BUT BE WORRIED. THE CHINDITS WERE REVELLING IN THE MEMORIES OF THE FIGHT BUT THE ENEMY COULD BE NEARBY WITH MORE MURDEROUS THOUGHTS IN MIND.

SOME OF THEM MUST HAVE SURVIVED THE ATTACK AND GONE FOR HELP. THEY COULD BE LYING IN WAIT AT THIS INSTANT

THE SILENT JUNGLE, USUALLY NOISY WITH THE CHATTER OF INSECT LIFE, SEEMED TO BE IN MUTE AGREEMENT WITH HIM.

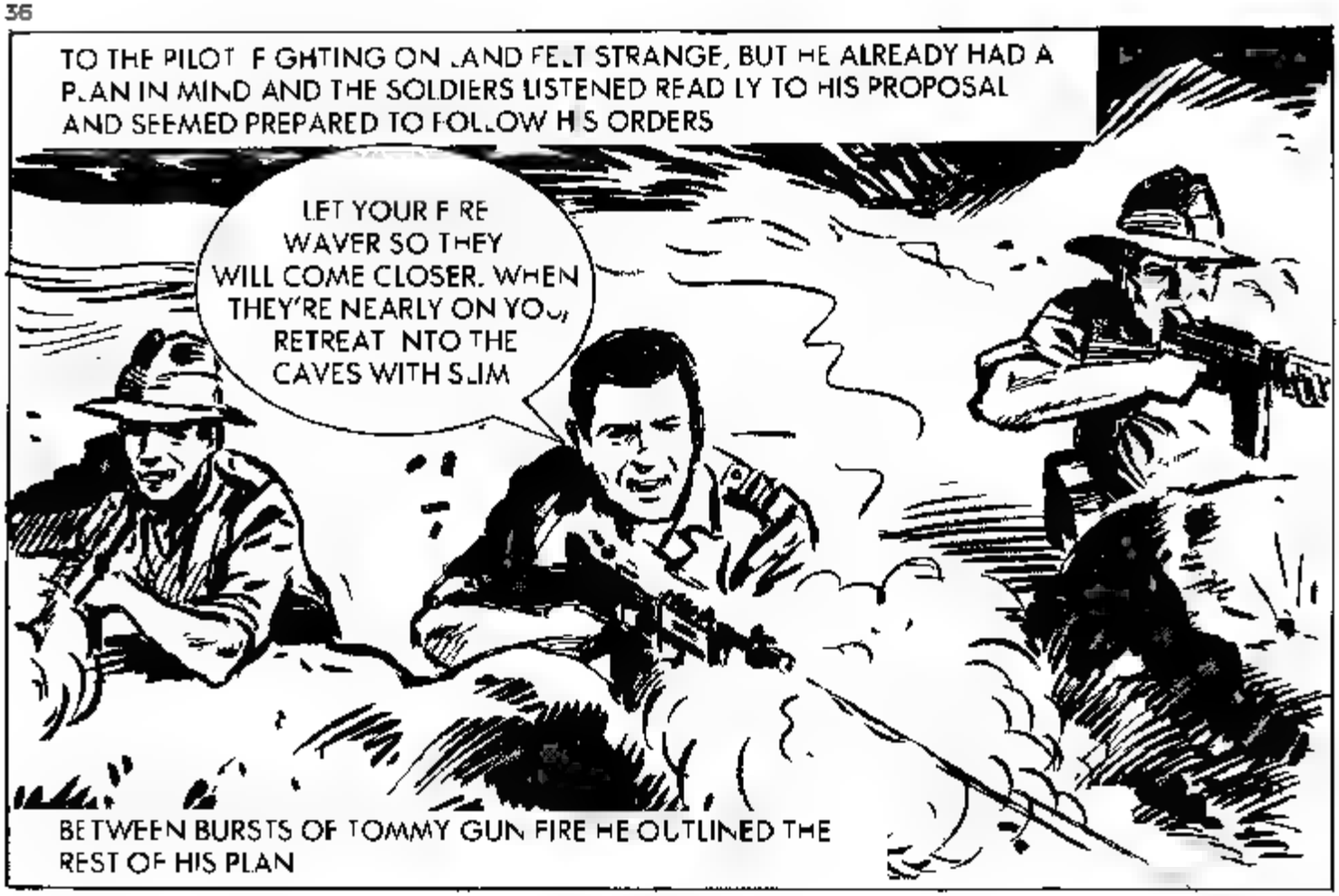
ROY DECIDED THAT HE HAD TO GET THE MEN INTO SOME FORM OF READINESS, JUST IN CASE HIS PREMONITION WAS CORRECT

I KNOW I'VE NOT LIVED WITH THE JUNGLE AS YOU HAVE, SLIM, BUT I SENSE THERE'S SOMETHING NOT QUITE RIGHT OUT THERE

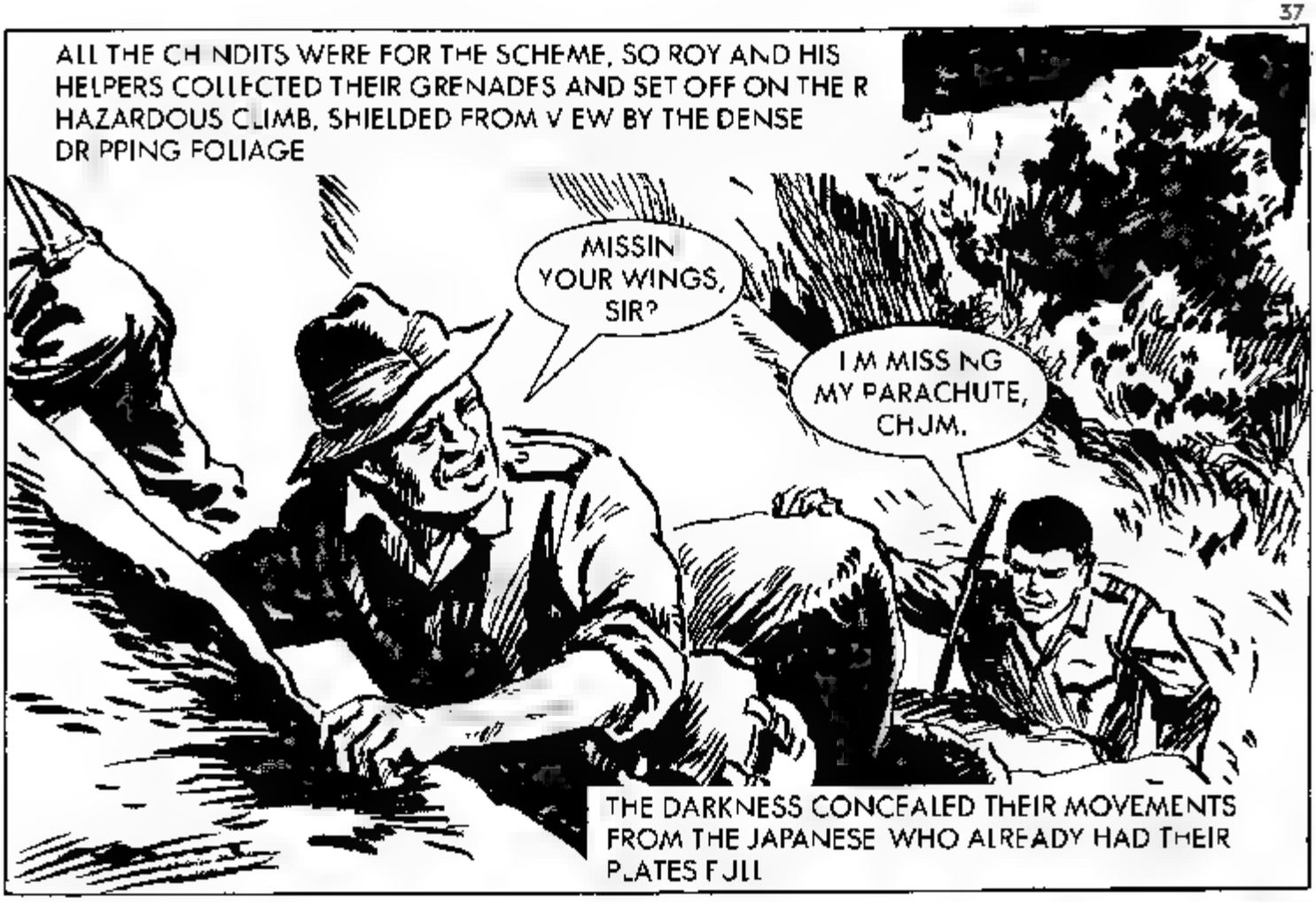
OK CHUM WE'LL GO ALONG WITH YOUR SIXTH SENSE, JUST IN CASE.

THE SERGEANT ORDERED THE FIRE TO BE EXTINGUISHED AND EVERYONE TO KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR TROUBLE

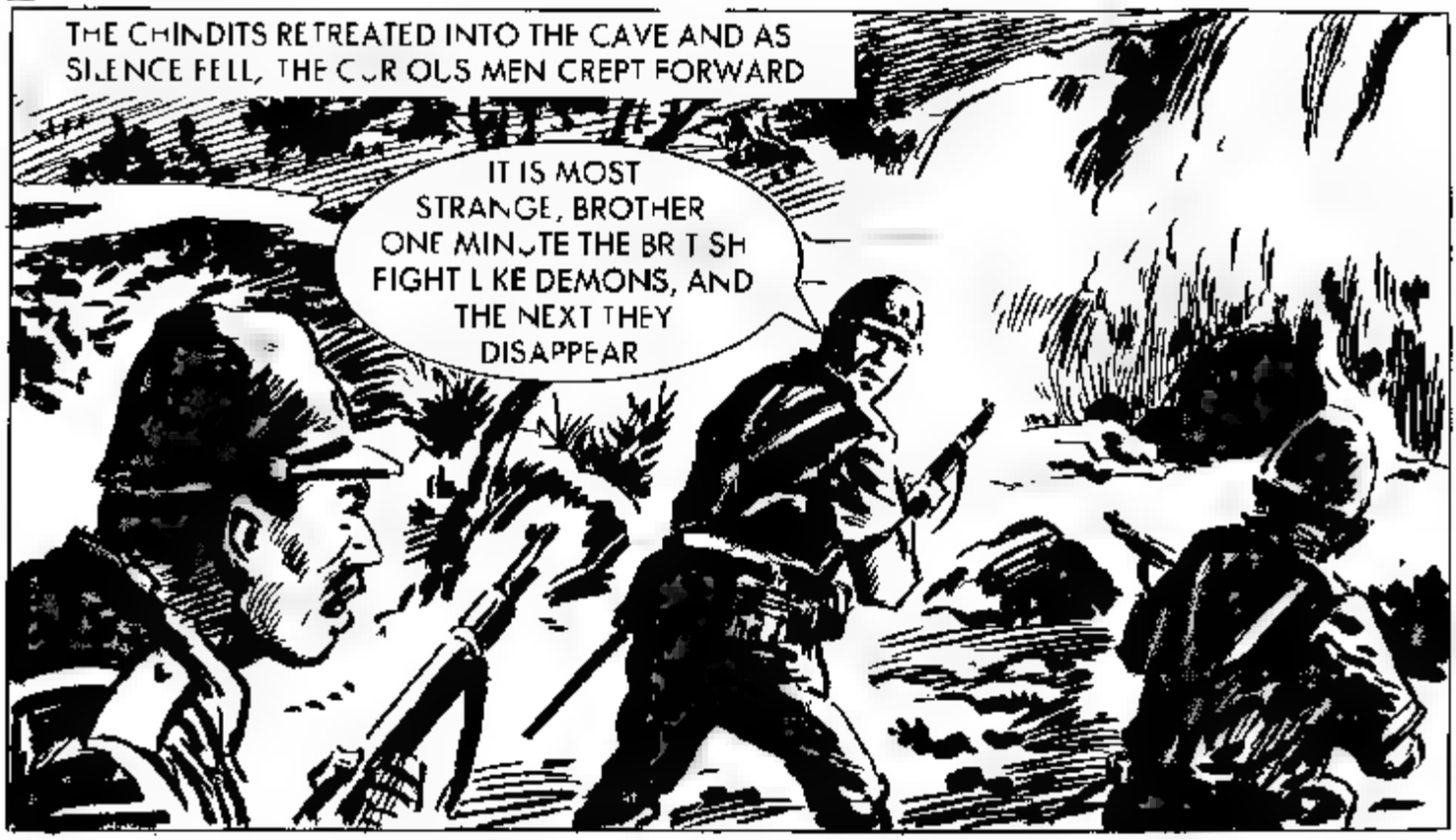
BUT ROY'S WARNING CAME TOO LATE. THE ENEMY HAD STEALTHILY BEEN CREEPING TOWARDS THE FIRE AND NOW WITH THE CHINDITS PREPARING TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, THEY ATTACKED
AAAGH
CRIKEY THEY MUST HAVE BEEN CLOSE ENOUGH TO WARM THEIR HANDS.
THE CHINDITS RALLIED ROUND SLIM BUT AS HE SNAPPED OUT A SERIES OF COMMANDS, HE TOO FELL VICTIM TO A BULLET
UUGHH!
THEY LOOKED ON IN HORROR AS THEIR N.C.O. CRASHED TO THE GROUND.
ROY RUSHED TO THE SERGEANT'S AID
HE'S OUT FOR THE COUNT, BUT HE'LL PULL THROUGH


TO THE PILOT F GHTING ON LAND FELT STRANGE, BUT HE ALREADY HAD A PLAN IN MIND AND THE SOLDIERS LISTENED READ LY TO HIS PROPOSAL AND SEEMED PREPARED TO FOLLOW H S ORDERS
LET YOUR F RE WAVER SO THEY WILL COME CLOSER. WHEN THEY'RE NEARLY ON YOU, RETREAT NTO THE CAVES WITH SLIM
BETWEEN BURSTS OF TOMMY GUN FIRE HE OUTLINED THE REST OF HIS PLAN

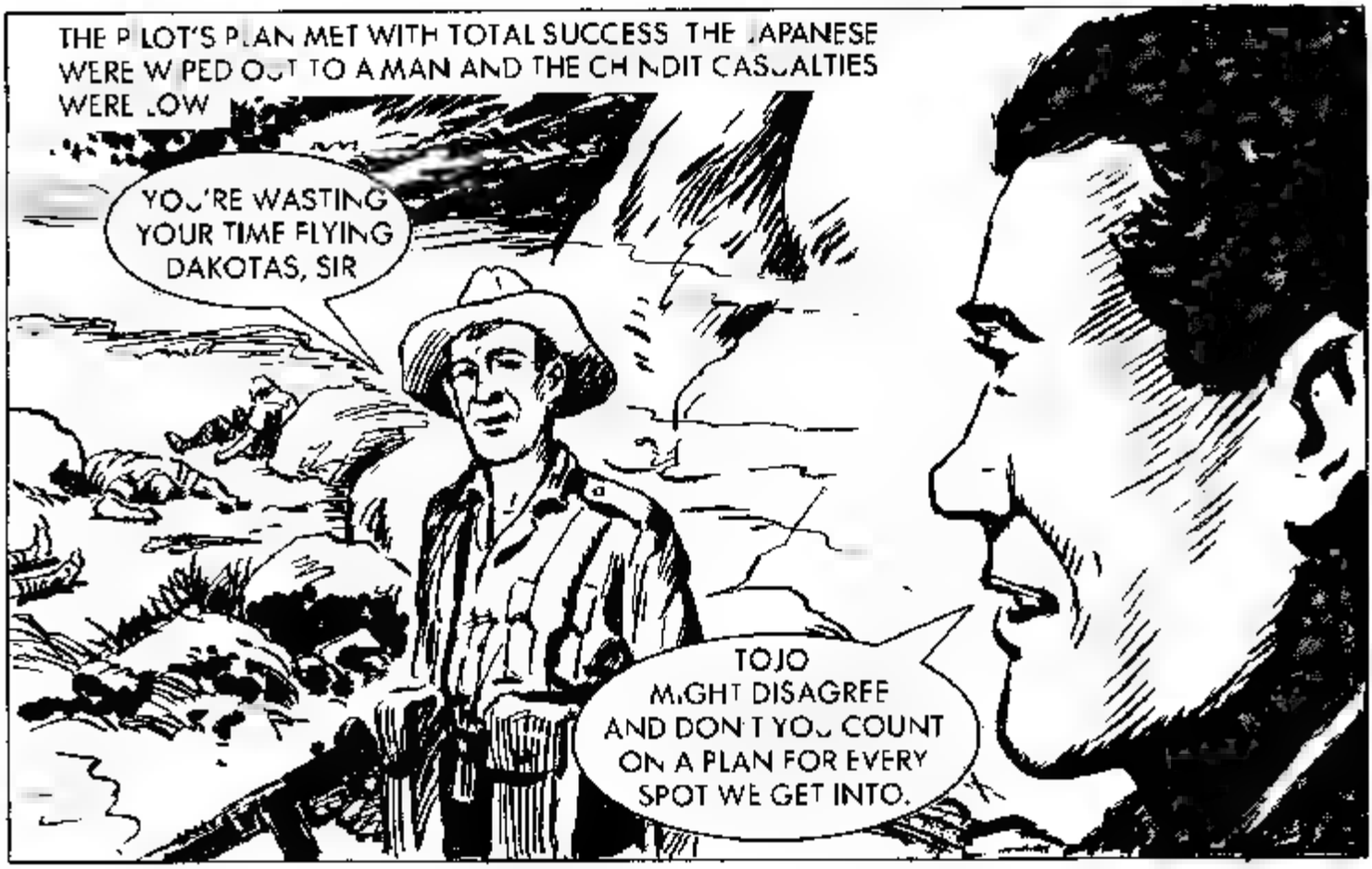
AS THEY CLOSED N, ROY AND TWO OF THE CHINDITS INTENDED TO BE H GH ABOVE THE FIGHT, ON THE CL FF BEHIND THEM, LOADED DOWN WITH GRENADES FROM THE REST OF THE MEN.
KEEP THEM AWAY FROM THE CAVE-MOUTHS, BUT LET THEM MOVE NEAR ENOUGH FOR US TO DROP THESE EGGS RIGHT IN THEIR LAPS


ALL THE CH NDITS WERE FOR THE SCHEME, SO ROY AND HIS HELPERS COLLECTED THEIR GRENADES AND SET OFF ON THE R HAZARDOUS CLIMB, SHIELDED FROM V EW BY THE DENSE DR PPING FOLIAGE
MISSIN YOUR WINGS, SIR?
I M MISS NG MY PARACHUTE, CHJM.
THE DARKNESS CONCEALED THEIR MOVEMENTS FROM THE JAPANESE WHO ALREADY HAD THEIR PLATES FJLL

HANGING ON GR MLY, THE THREE MEN SOON REACHED A LEDGE WHICH GAVE THEM A GOOD LAUNCHING PAD FOR THEIR MISSILES
AS SOON AS THE LAST OF OUR LADS MOVES NTO THE CAVES IT S BOMBS AWAY


THE CHINDITS RETREATED INTO THE CAVE AND AS SILENCE FELL, THE COURAGEOUS MEN CREPT FORWARD
IT IS MOST STRANGE, BROTHER ONE MINUTE THE BRITISH FIGHT LIKE DEMONS, AND THE NEXT THEY DISAPPEAR

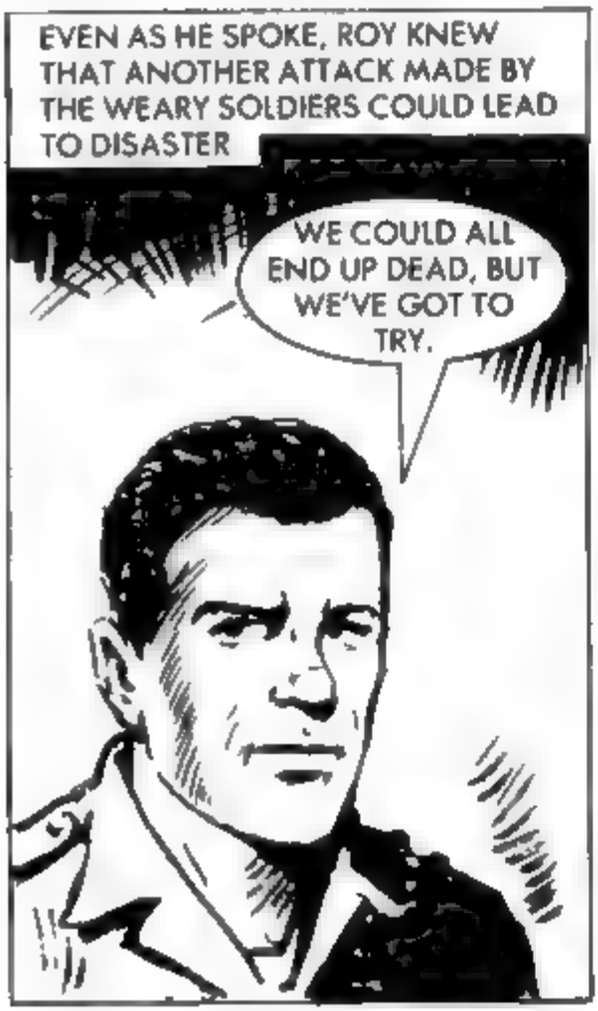
ROY AND HIS 'GRENADIERS' GAVE THEM NO FURTHER TIME TO PONDER THE MYSTERY THEY STRUCK SUDDENLY
AARGH!
GRENADES FELL IN A MURDEROUS RAIN – AND SIMULTANEOUSLY THE CHINDITS OPENED FIRE FROM THE CAVES


THE PILOT'S PLAN MET WITH TOTAL SUCCESS THE JAPANESE WERE WIPED OUT TO A MAN AND THE CHINDIT CASUALTIES WERE LOW
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME FLYING DAKOTAS, SIR
TOJO MIGHT DISAGREE AND DON'T YOU COUNT ON A PLAN FOR EVERY SPOT WE GET INTO.

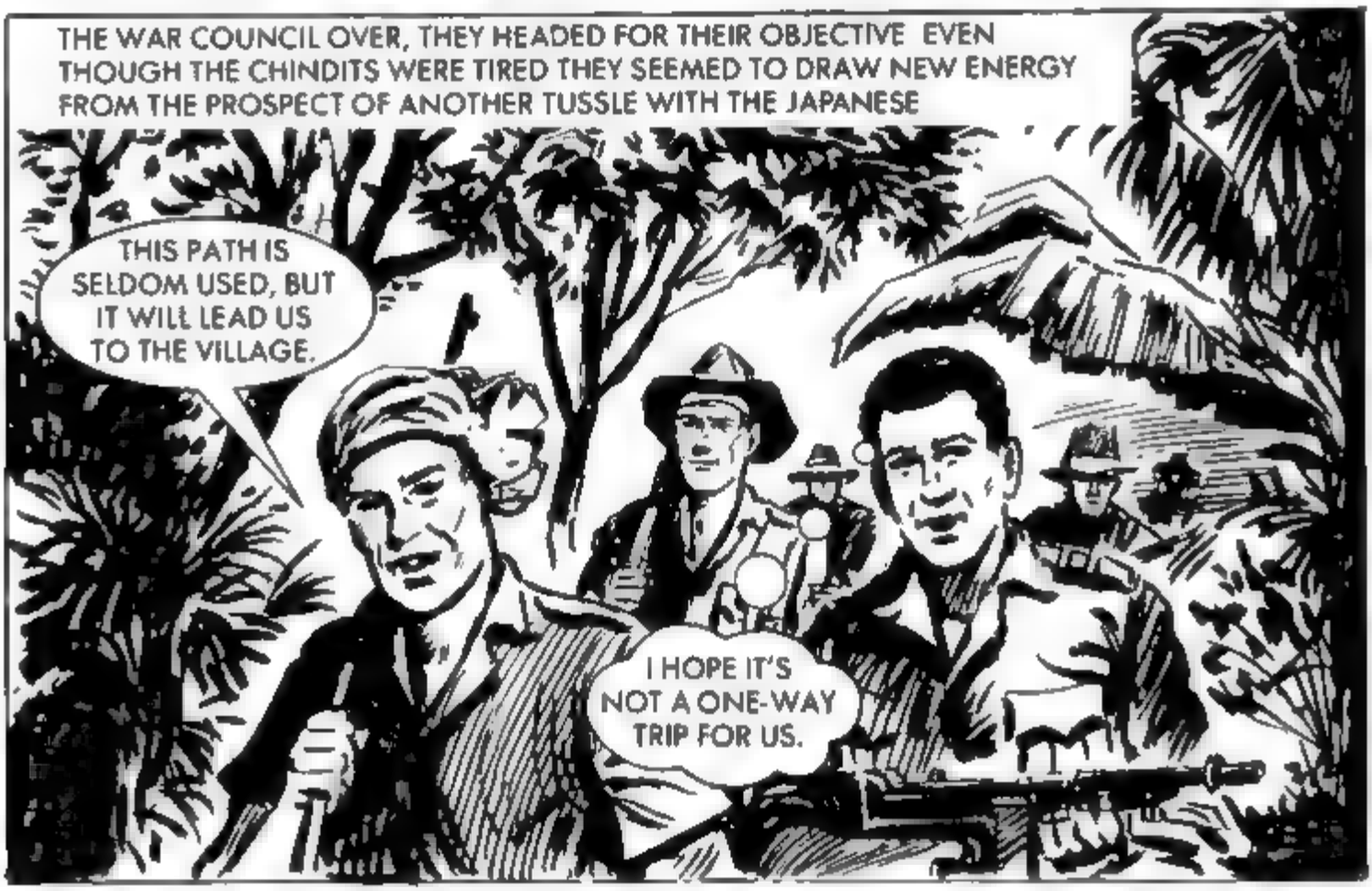
MEANWHILE THE SERGEANT HAD REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS DURING THE FIREWORKS
WAKE UP WITH A HEADACHE, SIR?
NOTHING SO PLEASANT. I THINK THAT BULLET'S STILL RICOCHETING AROUND IN MY SKULL.
DESPITE HIS MOANS HE WAS ON THE WAY TO RECOVERY AND HE CONGRATULATED ROY ON HIS COMMAND OF THE MEN

AS THE TWO MEN TALKED THERE WAS A RUSTLING AT THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE AND PADAUNG STEPPED INTO VIEW, FLANKED BY HIS CHINDIT ESCORT
CRIKEY! I THOUGHT IT WAS SOME TOJO WHO'D MISSED THE PARTY.
BAD NEWS! THE AUSTRALIAN HAS BEEN TAKEN.
WE GOT THERE JUST IN TIME TO SEE HIM GETTING MARCHED OFF.
THEY'D SHADOWED THE JAPANESE PATROL AND FOLLOWED THEM BACK TO THEIR BASE IN A LOCAL VILLAGE WHERE DIGBY WAS NOW BEING HELD.

ROY FROWNED AT THE NEWS BUT SLIM TOOK IT IN HIS STRIDE.
WE'RE YOURS TO COMMAND, FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT. IF YOU WANT US TO HAVE A GO AT RESCUING DIGBY, WE'LL DO IT.
THANKS, SLIM. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'VE GOT TO DO. HE'S THE ONE MAN WHO CAN GUARANTEE THE DESTRUCTION OF THAT TUNNEL.


EVEN AS HE SPOKE, ROY KNEW THAT ANOTHER ATTACK MADE BY THE WEARY SOLDIERS COULD LEAD TO DISASTER
WE COULD ALL END UP DEAD, BUT WE'VE GOT TO TRY.

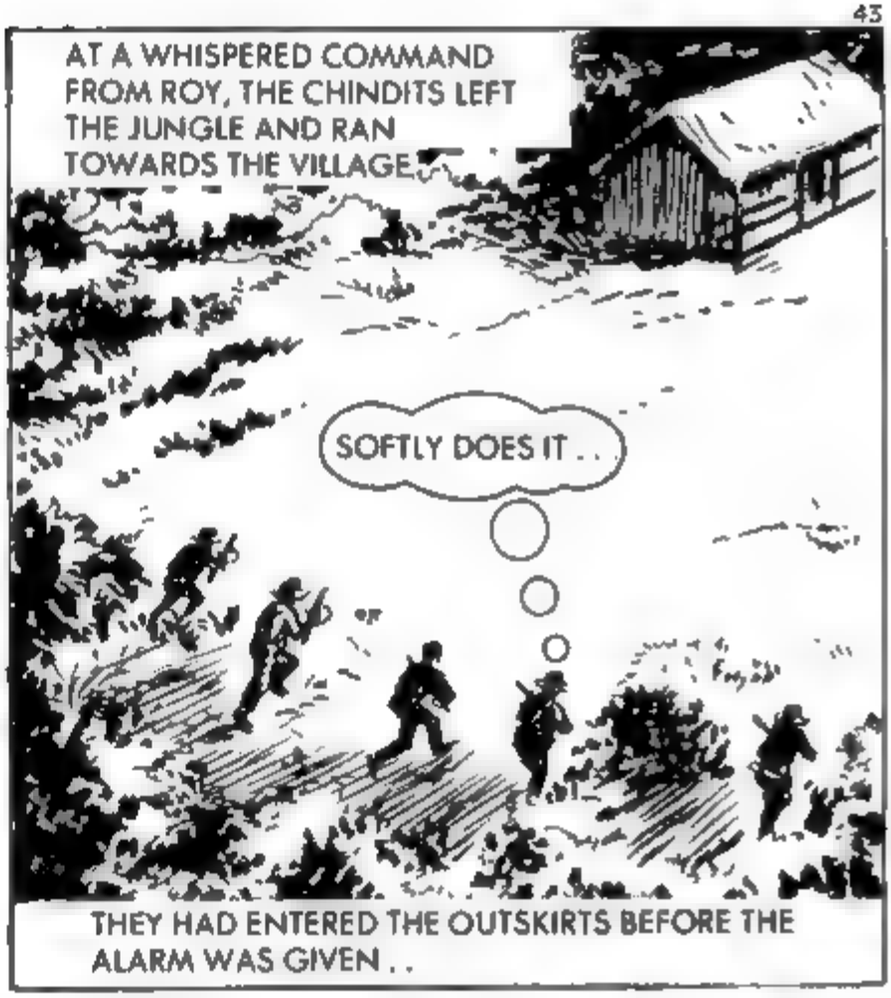
ON THE ADVICE OF PADAUNG AND THE MEN WHO HAD SCOUTED THE JAPANESE BASE, THEY ARRIVED AT A PLAN.
WE'LL USE THE SAME TACTICS AS YOU USED WHEN YOU RESCUED US, SLIM.
A SURPRISE ATTACK COUPLED WITH A BRIEF PERIOD OF INTENSE GUNFIRE COULD SHOCK AND CRIPPLE A SUPERIOR FORCE.


THE WAR COUNCIL OVER, THEY HEADED FOR THEIR OBJECTIVE EVEN THOUGH THE CHINDITS WERE TIRED THEY SEEMED TO DRAW NEW ENERGY FROM THE PROSPECT OF ANOTHER TUSSLE WITH THE JAPANESE
THIS PATH IS SELDOM USED, BUT IT WILL LEAD US TO THE VILLAGE.
I HOPE IT'S NOT A ONE-WAY TRIP FOR US.

ROY S MAIN WORRY WAS THAT IT MIGHT BE A WASTED JOURNEY
THEY LL SENSE SOMETHING PECULIAR ABOUT DIGBY BEING HERE IN THE JUNGLE
THE ENEMY COULD BE, AT THAT MOMENT, GIVING DIGBY A VERY ROUGH TIME TO SQUEEZE INFORMATION OUT OF HIM

WITH THESE THOUGHTS TO SPUR THEM ON, BY DAWN THEY HAD REACHED THE JUNGLE S EDGE WHICH SKIRTED THE VILLAGE
OK, CHAPS SPREAD OUT AND WAIT FOR THE WORD
WE LL GIVE THEM SUCH A FRIGHT THAT THEY'LL BE RUNNING BACK TO TOKYO BEFORE THEY KNOW IT!

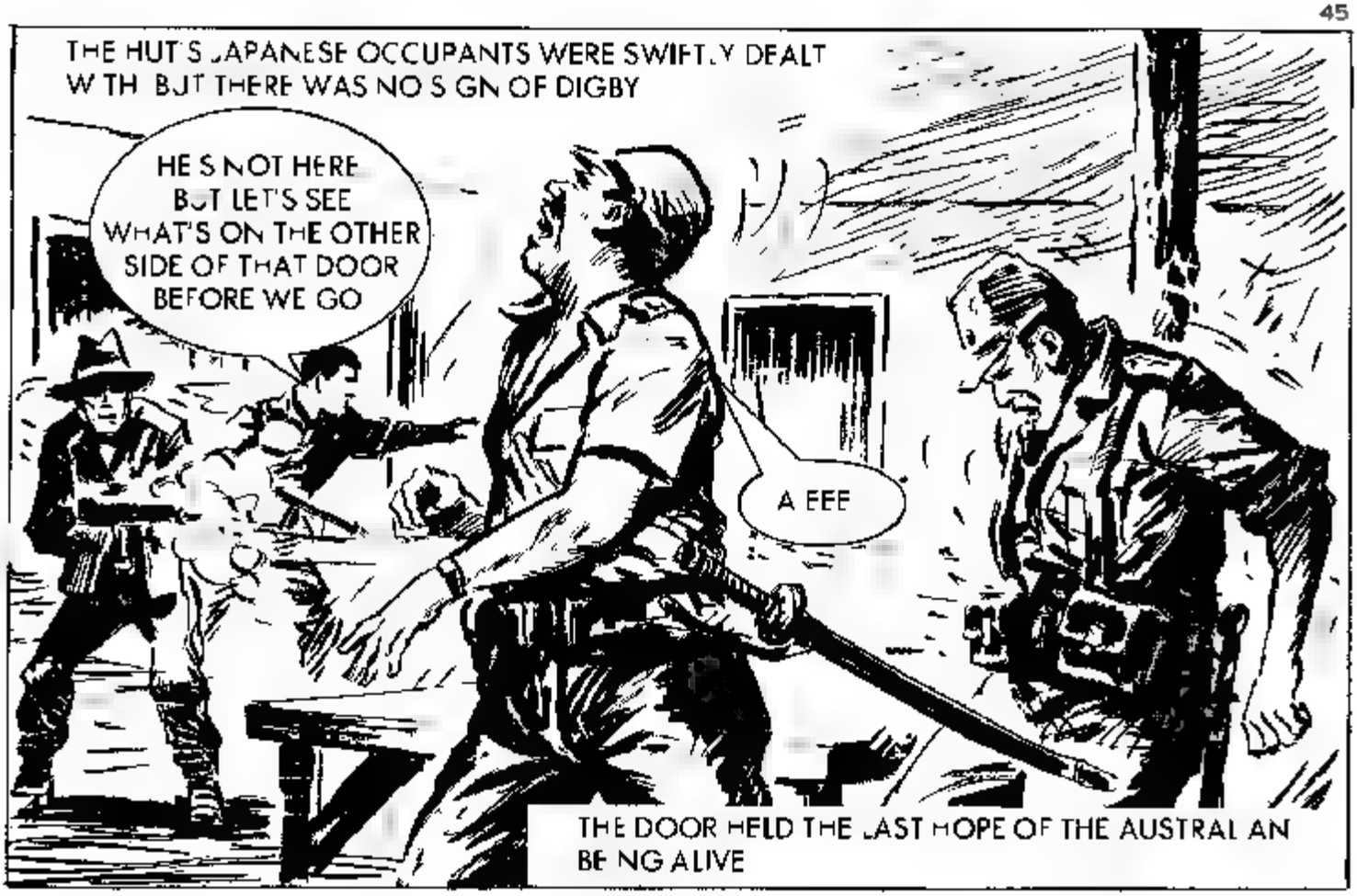
THE FEW SLEEPY GUARDS WHO WERE ON DUTY WOULD BE NO PROBLEM
THEIR WATCH WAS NEARING ITS END AND THEY WERE FAR FROM ALERT

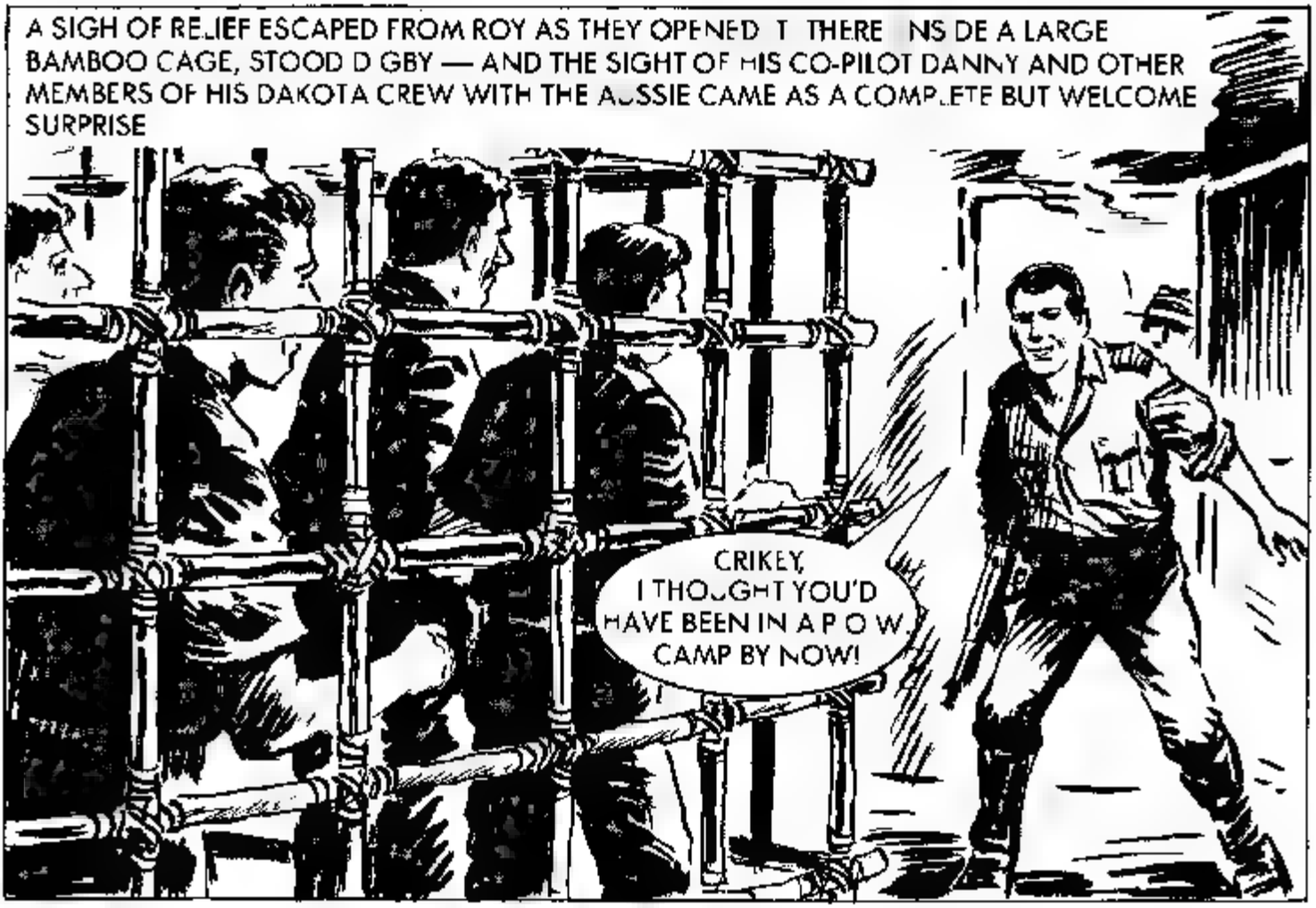

AT A WHISPERED COMMAND FROM ROY, THE CHINDITS LEFT THE JUNGLE AND RAN TOWARDS THE VILLAGE.
SOFTLY DOES IT . .
THEY HAD ENTERED THE OUTSKIRTS BEFORE THE ALARM WAS GIVEN . .

. . BUT IT CAME TOO LATE FOR THE JAPANESE TO RALLY AND PUT UP ANY ADEQUATE RESISTANCE.
REMEMBER, MEN, ONCE WE GET DIGBY, DON'T HANG AROUND
AIEE! WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!

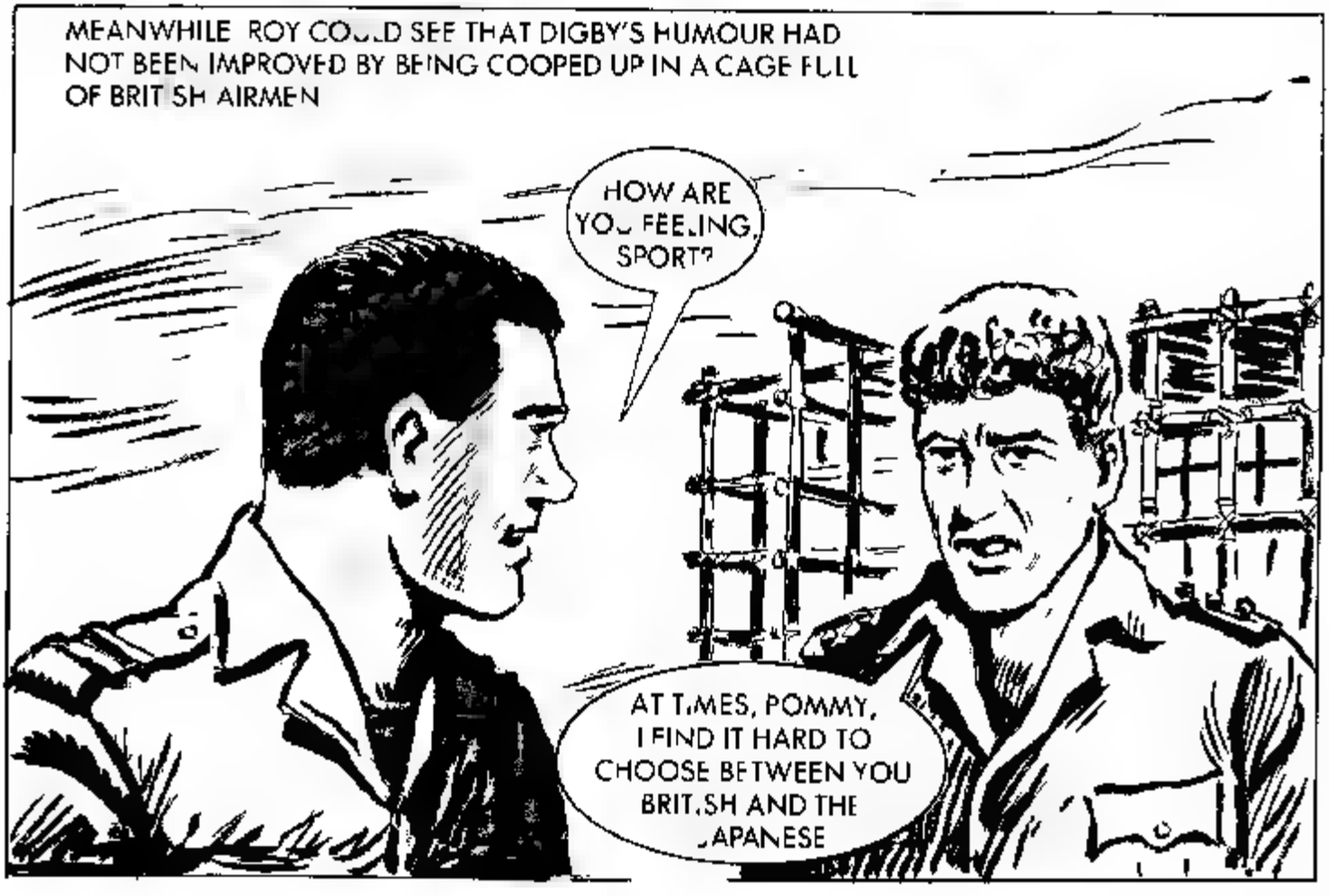
AS THE ENEMY POURED FROM THEIR HUTS, THE GUARD'S CRY RINGING IN THEIR EARS, THEY WERE MOWN DOWN BY THE CHINDITS WHO WERE READY AND WAITING.
AARGH!

THE DARING ATTACK TOOK THE ENEMY TOTALLY BY SURPRISE AND THE RAIDERS HAD SOON REACHED THE JAPANESE COMMAND HUT WITHOUT SERIOUS RESISTANCE
IF DIGBY'S NOT IN HERE I DOUBT IF WE'LL FIND HIM ALIVE.
WHATEVER HAPPENS, WE'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE FAST.
THE ENEMY HAD BEEN SENT REELING, BUT THEY HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF SUPERIOR NUMBERS AND THEY WOULD SOON COME BOUNCING BACK WITH A VENGEANCE.


THE HUT'S JAPANESE OCCUPANTS WERE SWIFTLY DEALT WITH BUT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF DIGBY
HE'S NOT HERE BUT LET'S SEE WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT DOOR BEFORE WE GO
A EEE
THE DOOR HELD THE LAST HOPE OF THE AUSTRALIAN BEING ALIVE

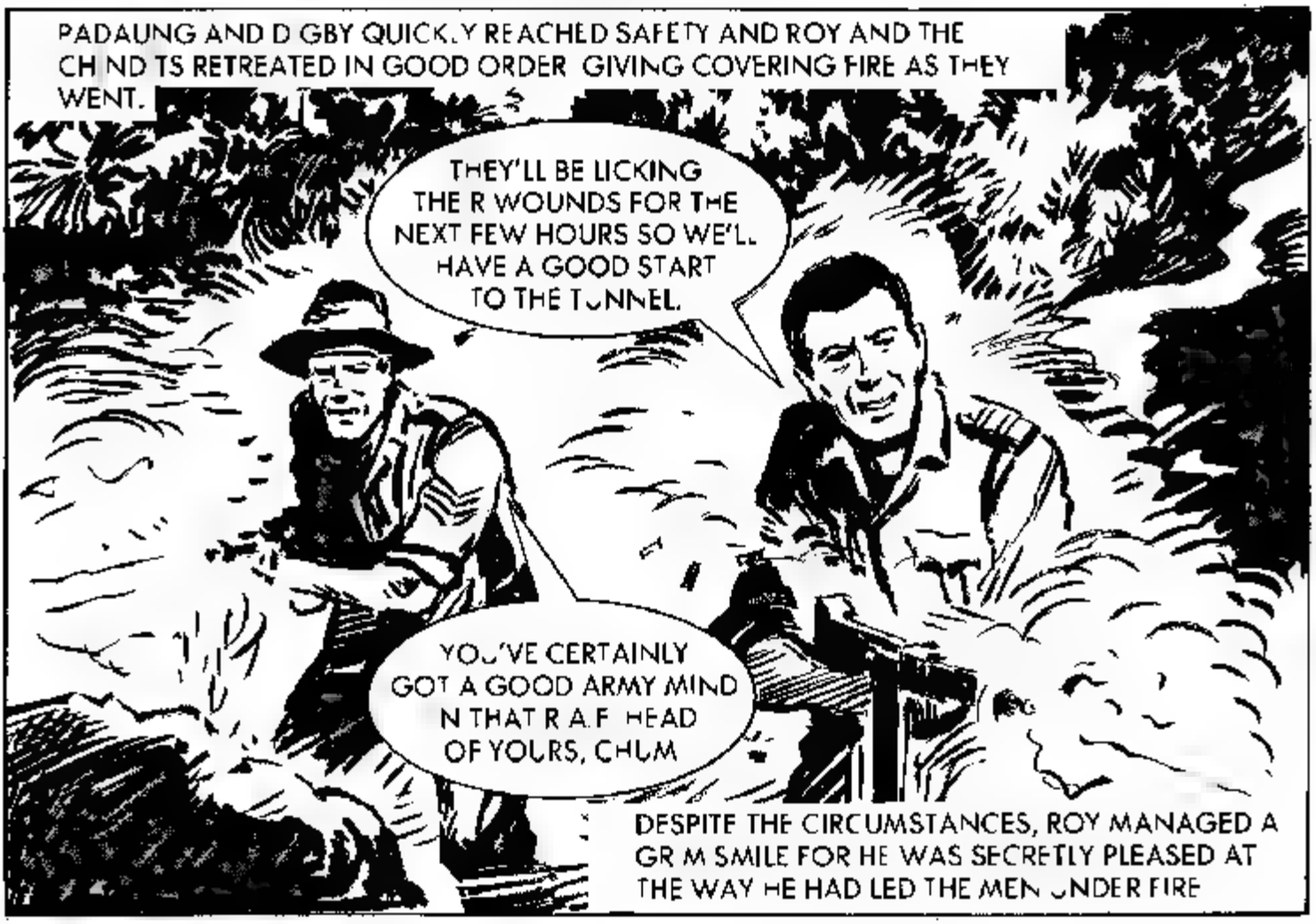

A SIGH OF RELIEF ESCAPED FROM ROY AS THEY OPENED IT THERE INSIDE A LARGE BAMBOO CAGE, STOOD DIGBY — AND THE SIGHT OF HIS CO-PILOT DANNY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS DAKOTA CREW WITH THE AUSSIE CAME AS A COMPLETE BUT WELCOME SURPRISE
CRIKEY, I THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE BEEN IN A P O W CAMP BY NOW!

DANNY WAS THE FIRST TO GREET HIM AS THE CAGE WAS OPENED
FROM WHAT D GBY TOLD US, WE THOUGHT YOU D HAD IT
WOULD HAVE, F IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THESE CHINDITS AND ONE OF THE LOCALS


MEANWHILE ROY COULD SEE THAT DIGBY'S HUMOUR HAD NOT BEEN IMPROVED BY BEING COOPED UP IN A CAGE FULL OF BRITISH AIRMEN
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, SPORT?
AT TIMES, POMMY, I FIND IT HARD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU BRITISH AND THE JAPANESE

WHILE DIGBY HAD BEEN ON BOARD THE DAKOTA, ROY HAD SOFT PEDALLED WITH HIM, BUT NOW HE WAS THE BOSS AND IT WAS TIME TO PUT THE AUSTRALIAN IN HIS PLACE
STOW IT DIGBY WE DIDN'T SPRING YOU BECAUSE WE LIKE YOUR PERSONALITY THERE'S A TUNNEL OUT THERE WAITING TO BE BLOWN UP
FOR ONCE DIGBY COULDN'T ARGUE WITH WHAT ROY SAID HE COULD ONLY TURN AWAY IN SHAME
WE'VE ALL JUST RISKED OUR LIVES TO SAVE YOU, SO KEEP YOUR MOANS TO YOURSELF AND GET ON WITH WHAT YOU'RE BEST AT
THE PILOT HAD REALLY HIT HOME WITH HIS TEMPER AND THE AUSTRALIAN'S COWED EXPRESSION SHOWED IT.

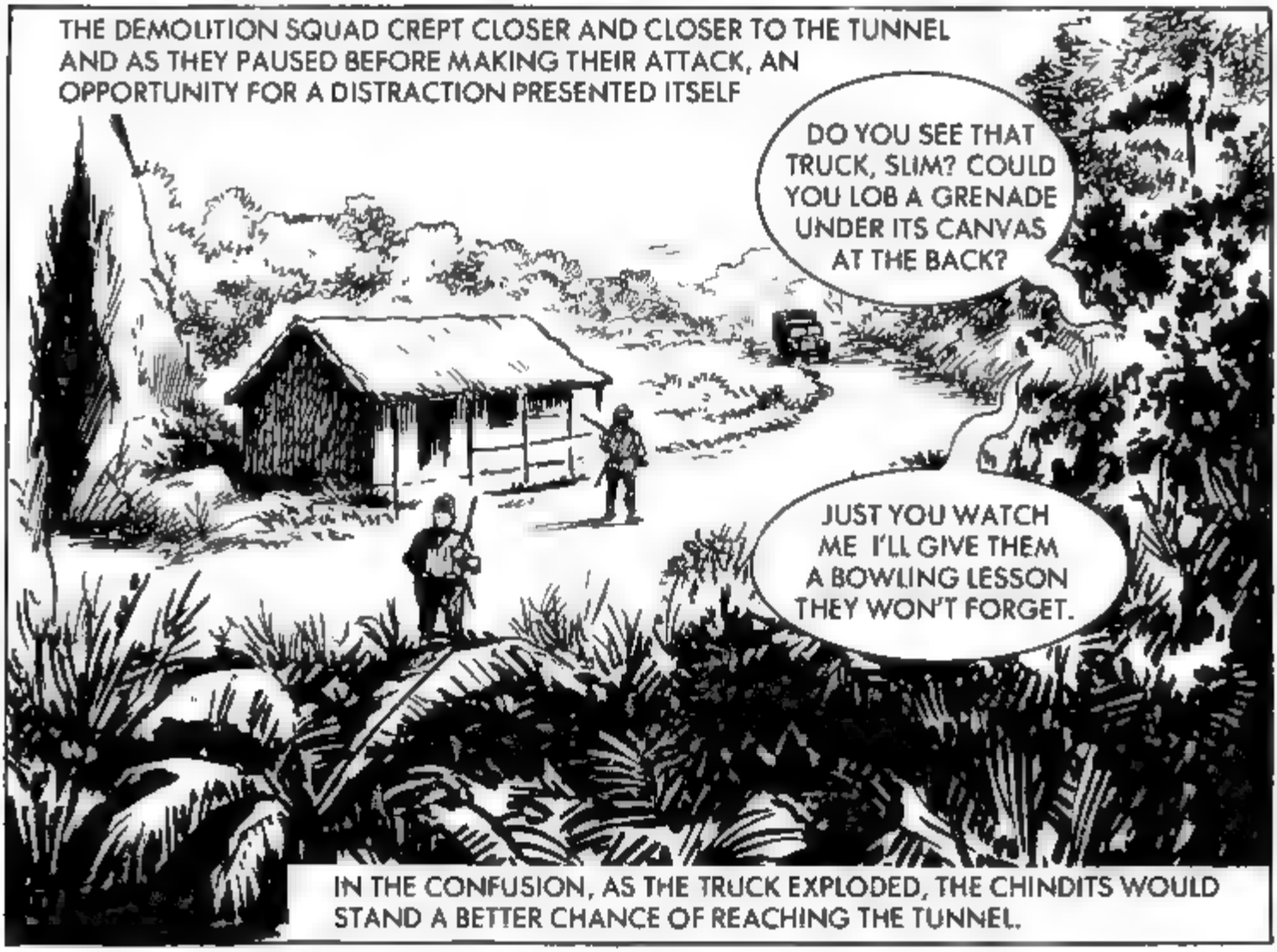
MEANTIME, WHILE ROY AND THE MEN HAD BEEN RELEASING THE PRISONERS, PADAUNG HAD MADE A DISCOVERY — DIGBY'S EXPLOSIVES WHICH HAD BEEN CAPTURED WITH HIM.
GOOD WORK, PADAUNG. TAKE DIGBY AND TWO MEN AND MOVE THE EQUIPMENT INTO THE JUNGLE
WHILE PADAUNG DID THIS, ROY AND THE CHINDITS WOULD HOLD OFF THE ENEMY WHO WERE BEGINNING TO ORGANISE THEIR RETALIATION.

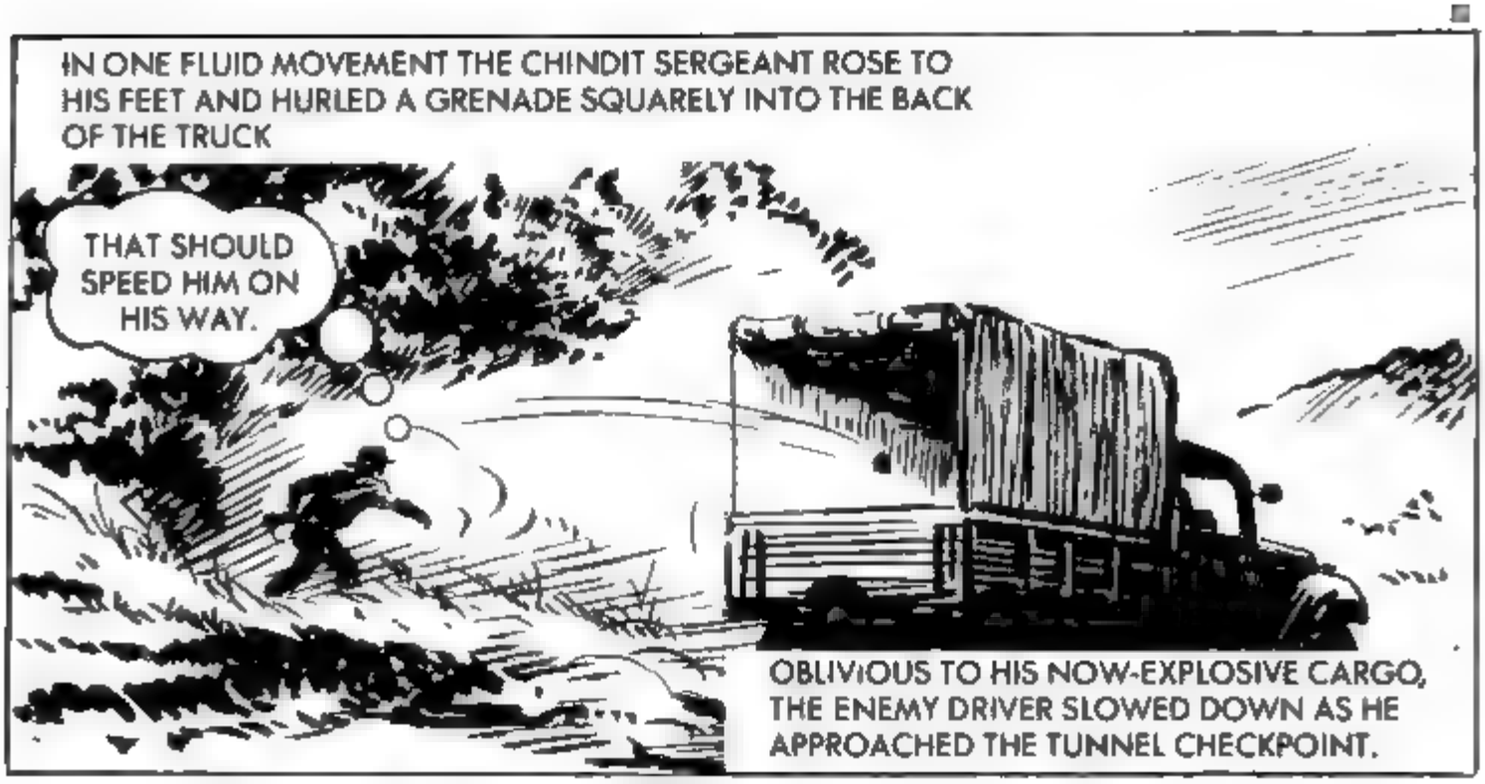

PADAUNG AND DIGBY QUICKLY REACHED SAFETY AND ROY AND THE CHINDITS RETREATED IN GOOD ORDER GIVING COVERING FIRE AS THEY WENT.
THEY'LL BE LICKING THEIR WOUNDS FOR THE NEXT FEW HOURS SO WE'LL HAVE A GOOD START TO THE TUNNEL.
YOU'VE CERTAINLY GOT A GOOD ARMY MIND IN THAT R.A.F. HEAD OF YOURS, CHUM
DESPITE THE CIRCUMSTANCES, ROY MANAGED A GRIM SMILE FOR HE WAS SECRETLY PLEASED AT THE WAY HE HAD LED THE MEN UNDER FIRE

ONCE INTO THE JUNGLE, THE RAIDERS FORMED INTO A COLUMN AND SET OUT FOR THE TUNNEL WHICH WAS A FEW MILES AWAY. THE JAPANESE DID NOT SEEM TOO EAGER TO GIVE CHASE
THOSE BLOKES ARE IN NO HURRY TO CATCH UP WITH US
ONCE BITTEN TWICE SHY, SLIM, BUT OUR RECEPTION COMMITTEE AT THE TUNNEL MIGHT HAVE A BIT MORE FIGHT IN THEM.
LUCKILY THE RAIDERS HAD DESTROYED THE JAPANESE'S RADIO SET SO THE ENEMY COULDN'T WARN ANYONE.

AFTER TRUDGING THROUGH THE JUNGLE FOR A FEW HOURS, THEY REACHED A POSITION OVERLOOKING THE TUNNEL
IT'S ALL YOURS, DIGBY. WHAT'S YOUR PLAN AND HOW CAN WE HELP?
I'LL NEED HALF AN HOUR TO FIX THE EXPLOSIVES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TUNNEL AND GET OUT AGAIN.
WHILE DIGBY WAS INVOLVED IN HIS DELICATE TASK THE CHINDITS WOULD FIGHT OFF ALL-COMERS

BUT EVEN THOUGH THE AUSTRALIAN HADN'T MENTIONED IT, ROY KNEW THAT DIGBY WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITH SOME HELP IN THE TUNNEL ITSELF.
OK, RAVEN, THANKS, BUT YOU KNOW THERE'S DANGER.
I'LL BE COMING WITH YOU, DIGBY, BECAUSE YOU'LL GET ON QUICKER WITH ME TO HELP YOU OUT


THE DEMOLITION SQUAD CREPT CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE TUNNEL AND AS THEY PAUSED BEFORE MAKING THEIR ATTACK, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A DISTRACTION PRESENTED ITSELF
DO YOU SEE THAT TRUCK, SLIM? COULD YOU LOB A GRENADE UNDER ITS CANVAS AT THE BACK?
JUST YOU WATCH ME I'LL GIVE THEM A BOWLING LESSON THEY WON'T FORGET.
IN THE CONFUSION, AS THE TRUCK EXPLODED, THE CHINDITS WOULD STAND A BETTER CHANCE OF REACHING THE TUNNEL.


IN ONE FLUID MOVEMENT THE CHINDIT SERGEANT ROSE TO HIS FEET AND HURLED A GRENADE SQUARELY INTO THE BACK OF THE TRUCK
THAT SHOULD SPEED HIM ON HIS WAY.
OBLIVIOUS TO HIS NOW-EXPLOSIVE CARGO, THE ENEMY DRIVER SLOWED DOWN AS HE APPROACHED THE TUNNEL CHECKPOINT.

ALTHOUGH THE GRENADE WASN'T EXPLOSIVE ENOUGH IN ITSELF TO DO MUCH DAMAGE, SLIM HAD STRUCK LUCKY, FOR THE VEHICLE WAS CARRYING CRATES OF AMMUNITION.
AIEEE!
THE EXPLOSION NOT ONLY DESTROYED THE TRUCK BUT IT ALSO DEALT WITH THE GUARDS WHO WERE LEISURELY APPROACHING WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS JUST ANOTHER ROUTINE CHECK.

IN THE WAKE OF THE BLAST, THE CHINDITS MOVED IN AND MOPPED UP THE BEWILDERED GUARDS WHO'D POURED FORTH FROM THE GATEHOUSE, WHEN THE BUILDING WAS ROCKED BY THE BLAST.
THIS IS A REGULAR SHOOTING GALLERY
THEY QUICKLY SECURED THE MOUTH OF THE TUNNEL, ALLOWING ROY AND DIGBY TO GO AHEAD WITH THEIR JOB.

LOADED WITH EXPLOSIVES, THE TWO MEN HURRIED AS BEST THEY COULD INTO THE GLOOM OF THE TUNNEL.
WE SHOULD HAVE HAD A MULE ALONG FOR THIS PART OF THE JOB.
DON'T WORRY POMMY. WE HAVEN'T GOT FAR TO GO

IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE AUSTRALIAN FOUND A SPOT WHICH MET WITH HIS APPROVAL SO HE UNPACKED THE EXPLOSIVES AND GOT TO WORK

THIS'LL DO NICELY IF I POSIT ON THE GOODS HERE THEY SHOULD BRING THE HOUSE DOWN.

HOPEFULLY WE WON'T BE AROUND TO SEE IT

IT WAS STRANGE, BUT IN THE TENSION OF THE MOMENT THE TWO MEN WERE FORGETTING THEIR D FFERENCES.

THE FRICT ON OF THE PAST HAD GONE AND THEY WERE NOW WORKING TOGETHER AS ONE UNIT

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP RAVEN YOU CAN PUSH OFF NOW IF YOU WANT.

AND LEAVE YOU IN THE DARK SPORT? NO CHANCE.

SIMULTANEOUSLY BOTH MEN REAL SED THAT THEIR ROLES HAD BECOME REVERSED

YOU RE TOO STUBBORN FOR YOUR OWN GOOD PAL.

NO MORE THAN YOU WERE IN THE PLANE BEFORE WE CRASHED

MEANWHILE THE JAPANESE CONTINGENT AT THE OTHER END HAD HEARD THE COMMOTION AS THE TRUCK EXPLODED THEY WERE NOW CAUTIOUSLY EDGING THEIR WAY ALONG THE TUNNEL TO INVESTIGATE.

BY THE GODS, IT'S DARK IN HERE

SWALLOW YOUR FEAR, SHINZO SABOTEURS MAY BE AROUND AND WE MUST DEAL WITH THEM.

VOICES ECHOED IN THE SILENCE OF THE TUNNEL AND THE DISTANT CHATTER OF THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS PUT ROY AND DIGBY ON THE ALERT

IT SOUNDS LIKE WE VE GOT COMPANY. ARE YOU FINISHED?

YES, AND I'VE SET THE TIMING DEVICE BUT IF THEY GET HERE SOON THEY CAN PREVENT THE EXPLOSION.

BOTH MEN KNEW THAT ONE OF THEM WOULD HAVE TO ENSURE THAT THE ENEMY NEVER REACHED THE EXPLOSIVES

BUT TO STAY WOULD MEAN ALMOST CERTAIN DEATH BENEATH A MOUNTAIN OF RUBBLE WHEN THE EXPLOSIVES WERE DETONATED — T WAS A GRIM DECISION TO TAKE

I'M IN CHARGE SO I'M ORDERING YOU TO GO

ALONE? I'D NEVER FIND MY WAY BACK WITHOUT YOU

DIGBY SHRUGGED IN DESPAIR IT SEEMED THEY WOULD HAVE TO ESCAPE TOGETHER OR NOT AT ALL.

MEANWHILE THE ENEMY HAD BEEN CREEPING EVER CLOSER BUT CAUTION PROVED TO BE NO SAFEGUARD

THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING

AIEEE!

ROY AND DIGBY WERE WELL HIDDEN AND THEIR AIM PROVED DEADLY

BUT WITH THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE LOST, THE SKIRMISH REACHED STALEMATE

THEY CAN'T GET TO THE EXPLOSIVES, AND WE CAN'T GET TO SAFETY. GOT ANY IDEAS?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, YES.

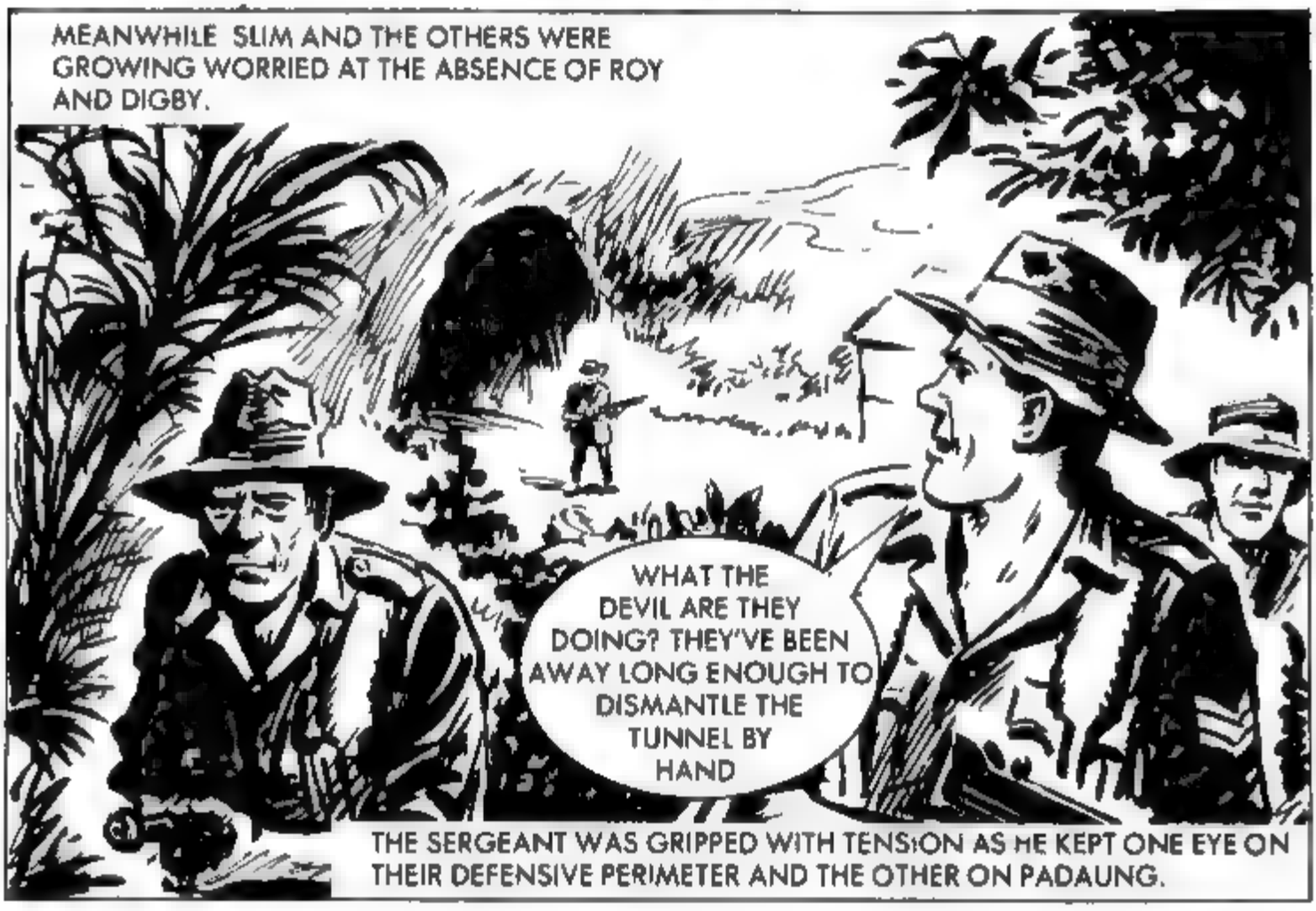
ROY TOLD THE AUSTRALIAN TO POINT THE FLASHLIGHT AT THE TUNNEL WALL AND THEN HE JUMPED TO HIS FEET AND TOOK AIM AT THE EXPLOSIVES
CRIPES! HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?
THE PILOT SMILED GRIMLY AT DIGBY'S ALARM

HE HAD NEVER BEEN MORE SANE. HE HAD A MESSAGE FOR THE JAPANESE BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE TO SPEAK THEIR LANGUAGE. FOR ACTIONS SPOKE LOUDER THAN WORDS.
AIEE! THE MADMAN WILL BLOW US ALL UP

WITH A CHORUS OF YELLS THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS TURNED AND FLED FROM THE EXPLOSION, WHICH THEY EXPECTED AT ANY MOMENT . . .
. . . BUT IT NEVER CAME.

ALL TOO FAMILIAR WITH THEIR OWN CODE OF DEATH RATHER THAN CAPTURE, THEY HAD FULLY EXPECTED THEIR ENEMIES TO DO THE SAME AND HADN'T REALISED THAT RON WAS ONLY BLUFFING
WELL DONE, BUT YOU WOULDN'T HAVE DETONATED THAT CHARGE WITH GUNFIRE.
LUCKY FOR US THAT THOSE JAPANESE OLYMPIC SPRINTERS DIDN'T KNOW THAT EITHER.

THEY COULDN'T DWELL ON THEIR GOOD FORTUNE FOR LONG. THE TIMING DEVICE WAS TICKING ON RELENTLESSLY TOWARDS THE TUNNEL'S MOMENT OF DESTRUCTION.
TIME TO TAKE A LEAF OUT OF THEIR BOOK. RUN FOR YOUR LIFE, RAVEN.
JUST YOU TRY CATCHING ME, DIGBY.


MEANWHILE SLIM AND THE OTHERS WERE GROWING WORRIED AT THE ABSENCE OF ROY AND DIGBY.
WHAT THE DEVIL ARE THEY DOING? THEY'VE BEEN AWAY LONG ENOUGH TO DISMANTLE THE TUNNEL BY HAND
THE SERGEANT WAS GRIPPED WITH TENSION AS HE KEPT ONE EYE ON THEIR DEFENSIVE PERIMETER AND THE OTHER ON PADAUNG.

THE NATIVE HAD BEEN STATIONED AT THE TUNNEL MOUTH AS A LOOK-OUT
CAN HEAR PEOPLE RUNN NG TH S WAY, TUAN.
OK, CHUM KEEP YOUR GUN TRAINED ON THE ENTRANCE, JUST N CASE IT'S SOME OF OUR JAPANESE FRIENDS

BUT THE FIGURES WH CH FINALLY APPEARED BROUGHT S GHS OF RELIEF ALL ROUND IT WAS ROY AND DIGBY WHO STUMBLED OUT NTO DAY LIGHT BREATHLESS BUT UNHARMED
BOY, ARE WE GLAD TO SEE THE SUN AGAIN
BUT THEIR FLIGHT WASN'T OVER. THEY HAD TO GET AWAY FROM THE TUNNEL MOUTH BEFORE THE EXPLOSIVES WERE DETONATED

THE EXHAUSTED DUO HELPED BY PADUANG, JUST MANAGED TO STUMBLE INTO THE SHELTER OF SOME ROCKS BEFORE THE CHARGE EXPLODED

THERE SHE BLOWS. THEY WON'T BE SHIFTING THAT LOT IN A HURRY

NOT UNLESS THEY CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS

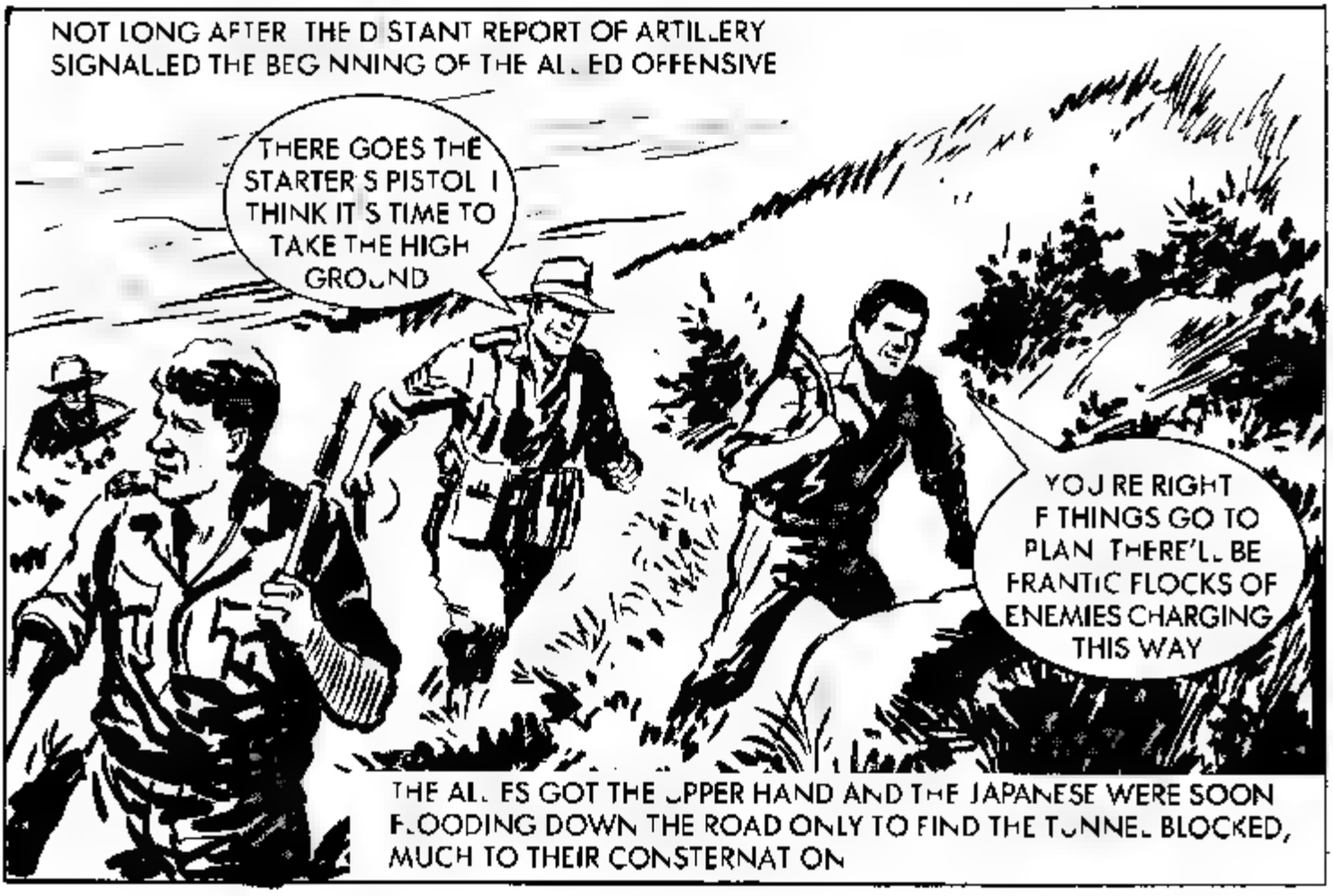
THE JUNGLE QUIVERED TO THE SOUND OF THE BLAST AND LIKE A BULLET FIRED ALONG THE BARREL OF A GUN, DEBRIS AND BILLOWING SMOKE SPED DOWN THE TUNNEL AND SHOT OUT INTO THE OPEN AIR

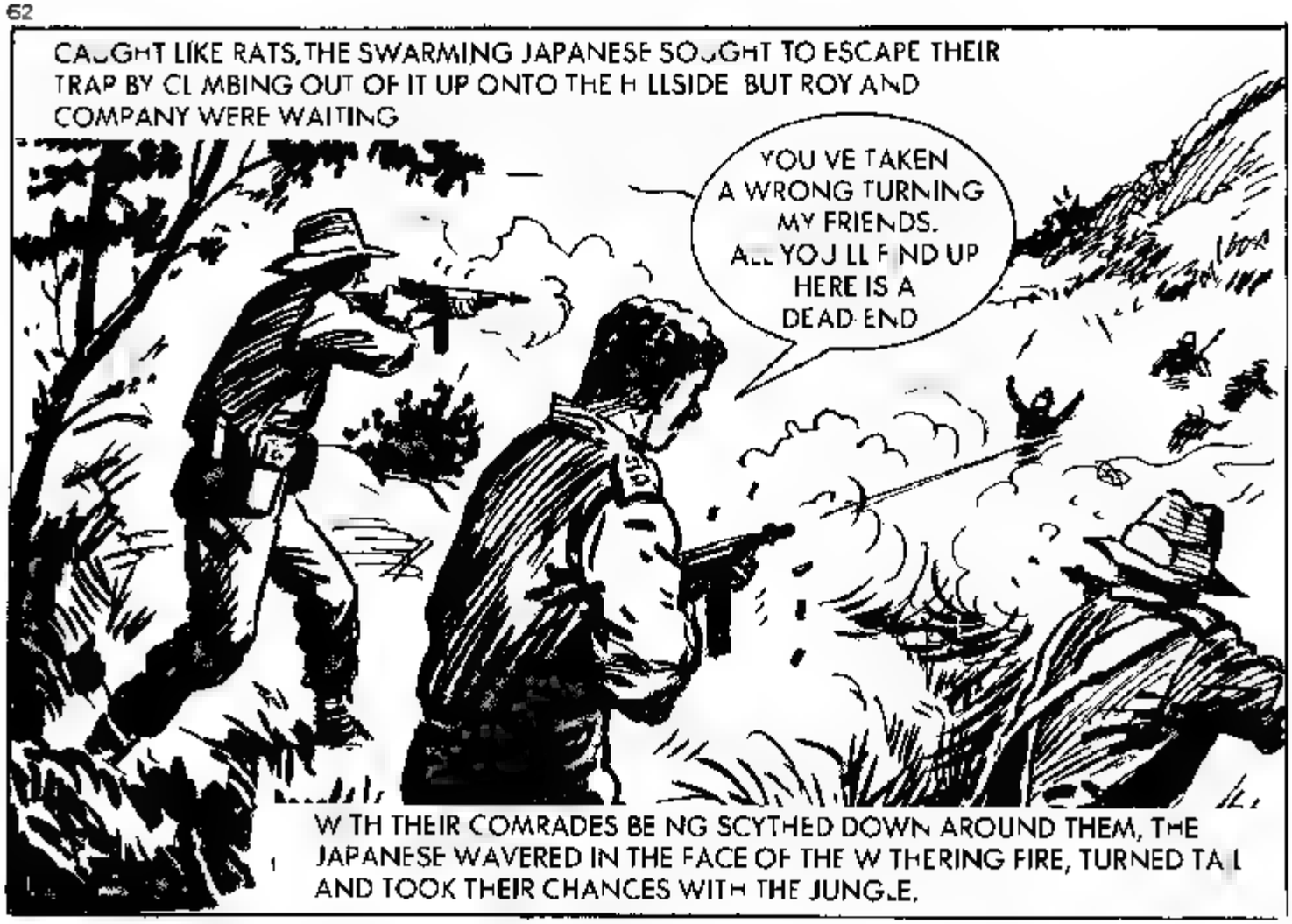
AS THE DUST SETTLED, THE RAIDERS LEFT THEIR COVER AND CONGREGATED ON THE ROAD WHICH NOW LED NOWHERE THANKS TO THEIR HARD WORK

WELL. DEMOLITION COMPLETE AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON

YOU'RE RIGHT IN AN HOUR'S TIME OUR SIDE WILL BE LAUNCHING THEIR OFFENSIVE AND THE ENEMY'LL FIND THEMSELVES SNOOKERED

D GBY FOUND H MSELF N THE UNFAMILIAR POSITION OF BEING THE HERO OF THE HOUR
YOU D D A F RST RATE JOB, CHUM NOT EVEN A JAPANESE MOUSE COULD SQUIRM THROUGH THAT LOT
THANKS. BUT I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT ROY'S HELP
THAT'S RIGHT I HELD THE TORCH FOR H M.
BOTH MEN LAUGHED AND THE ANIMOSITY OF THE PAST WAS FORGOTTEN.


NOT LONG AFTER THE D STANT REPORT OF ARTILLERY SIGNALLED THE BEG NNING OF THE AL ED OFFENSIVE
THERE GOES THE STARTER S PISTOL I THINK IT S TIME TO TAKE THE HIGH GROUND
YOU RE RIGHT F THINGS GO TO PLAN THERE'LL BE FRANTIC FLOCKS OF ENEMIES CHARGING THIS WAY
THE AL ES GOT THE UPPER HAND AND THE JAPANESE WERE SOON FLOODING DOWN THE ROAD ONLY TO FIND THE TUNNEL BLOCKED, MUCH TO THEIR CONSTERNAT ON


CAUGHT LIKE RATS, THE SWARMING JAPANESE SOUGHT TO ESCAPE THEIR TRAP BY CLIMBING OUT OF IT UP ONTO THE HILLSIDE BUT ROY AND COMPANY WERE WAITING
YOU VE TAKEN A WRONG TURNING MY FRIENDS. ALL YOU LL FIND UP HERE IS A DEAD END
WITH THEIR COMRADES BEING SCYTHED DOWN AROUND THEM, THE JAPANESE WAVERED IN THE FACE OF THE WITHERING FIRE, TURNED TAIL AND TOOK THEIR CHANCES WITH THE JUNGLE.

AS THE LAST OF THE JAPANESE SCATTERED THE SPEARHEAD OF THE BRITISH OFFENSIVE REACHED THE TUNNEL AND A WEARY BUT HAPPY WELCOME COMMITTEE
THE GOOD OLD BRITISH ARMY, AND TRAVELLING IN STYLE.

THE LIEUTENANT IN THE LEADING ARMOURED CAR LOOKED IN DISBELIEF AT THE MOTLEY AND RAGGED CREW

WHERE THE DEVIL DID YOU SPRING FROM? WE'VE BEEN GOING LIKE THE CLAPPERS ALL DAY ONLY TO FIND YOU HERE BEFORE US ON FOOT

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT ROY RAVEN AT YOUR SERVICE.

THE OFFICER'S JAW DROPPED FURTHER AS SLIM, DIGBY, PADAUNG, AND THE OTHER CHINDITS AND AIR CREW INTRODUCED THEMSELVES

HE COULDN'T BELIEVE HIS EYES.

BLIMEY! A TRAVELLING CIRCUS

I'M AFRAID YOU MISSED THE PERFORMANCE

THE OFFICER LOOKED ROUND AT THE BODIES AND THE BLOCKED TUNNEL

MEANWHILE DIGBY, ROY, AND HIS CREW WERE BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE CHINDITS.

OUR PLACE IS HERE CHASING TOJO AND PADAUNG HAS DECIDED TO JOIN US

WE'LL HAVE TO GET AIRBORNE, AND NO DOUBT CAPTAIN DIGBY'S SKILLS ARE STILL IN GREAT DEMAND

W TH THAT THEY WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS, THE CHIND TS JO N NG THE ADVANCE AND ROY AND DIGBY MADE THEIR WAY BACK DOWN THE ROAD EVENTUALLY THEY REACHED A FORWARD COMMAND POST, WHERE THEY MADE THEIR REPORT
I M JUST A PILOT, S R IT WAS CAPTAIN DIGBY WHO PUT PAID TO THE TUNNEL
THAT'S BALONEY, SIR. WITHOUT FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT RAVEN'S HELP I'D STILL BE LANGUISHING IN A JAIL AND THE ENEMY WOULD HAVE ESCAPED TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY

THE BRITISH OFFICER WAS AMUSED BY THEIR ATTEMPTS TO GIVE CRED T TO EACH OTHER NEVERTHELESS HE THANKED THEM BOTH FOR THE R CONTR BUTIONS TO THE OPERATION.
YOU CAN FIGHT OUT WHO THE HONOURS SHOULD GO TO LATER FOR THE TIME BE NG 'D LIKE YOU BOTH TO ACCEPT MY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

SO DIGBY WENT BACK TO THE DEMOLITION BUSINESS, FOR THE ENEMY WAS STILL A LONG WAY FROM DEFEAT. BUT HE NOW HAD A FULL-TIME ASSISTANT — ROY. HE'D PROVED HIMSELF SO PROFICIENT IN JUNGLE WARFARE, THAT AFTER A LOT OF PESTERING HE'D WANGLED A TRANSFER AWAY FROM PILOTING DAKOTAS.

OK, ROY. SYNCHRONISE WATCHES. I MAKE IT EXACTLY MIDNIGHT.

IS THAT BRITISH TIME OR AUSTRALIAN TIME, CHUM?

THE TWO WERE NOW THE BEST OF FRIENDS, BUT THEY WEREN'T WITHOUT THEIR MOMENTS OF BANTER WHICH HARKED BACK TO THOSE DAYS WHEN THEY WOULD HAVE CROSSED CONTINENTS TO AVOID MEETING EACH OTHER.

Commando
THE END

THE FOUR LATEST ALL-ACTION COMMANDO WAR STORIES ARE OUT NOW!

V FOR VITORIA
BLOOD IN THE SAND
OUTGUNNED!
DEMOLITION SQUAD

NAH THEN, SQUADDIES, AS ALWAYS IT'S NICE TO SEE SOME FRIENDLY FACES AND NEW ONES TOO — EVERYONE'S WELCOME IN MY STOREROOM. RIGHT GOOD TO MEET YOU IF YOU'RE FRESH TO COMMANDO, AND PROPER NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IF YOU'RE A VET. MIND, I'VE GOT THE LATEST GEN ON ALL THINGS COMMANDO, AND IF YOU WANT TO WRITE ME OR EMAIL HQ, OUR CONTACT INFORMATION JARGON IS BELOW, SO GET SCRIBBLING.

COMMANDO GEN!

I like to think myself a fount of all Commando knowledge, a real boffin if you will. So, as usual, latest information on upcoming Commando stories to follow.

First off the bat, there's a Luftwaffe ace who misses every shot — aye, you heard me right. "Bullseye" Bruno, they call him. He might be a top night-fighter pilot, but he's made a promise to spare every Allied plane he comes across... trouble is, some of the other Jerries are catching on. Then, from the skies over Europe to the North African desert, our other all-new Commando tale is about Aussie tankies, and I can tell you, those machines can get pretty hot under that sun — no wonder tempers are boiling over!

Word about the mess is some of you lot ain't got a copy of Ramsey's Raiders Volume 2 yet. Well, if you fancy some good reading I'd order one right now if I was you. The tasty looking graphic novel is all about my good pal Jimmy and the Special Raiding Force, you've probably heard of them...

And there you have it. For more action and adventure, don't forget there's another four shiny new Commandos out in two weeks' time. Get your copies then. Tarra. By direct order of the Quartermaster.

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DEMOLITION SQUAD

The supplies dropped into the Burmese jungle were vital to the Chindits, but pilot Roy Raven found these routine operations lacking in excitement. It even seemed fairly tame playing taxi driver to a demolitions expert sent out to destroy an enemy tunnel.

However, things heated up when Roy's Dakota was shot down and he found himself in the enemy-infested jungle with his passenger crippled in the crash and the tunnel still in one piece! But even with his wings clipped he was determined to see the mission through.

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